

BATMAN No.16



APRIL-MAY

10¢

BATMAN

SURPRISE!
SOMEBODY LEARNS THE TRUE
IDENTITIES OF BATMAN & ROBIN!
WHO CAN HE BE?



Get TIGER POWER Now It's EASY!

Here is your opportunity to build your body into a virile, dynamic machine of light strength. No room these days for weaklings. Now, more than ever, you must be **STRONG** to get ahead in the world. . . . you can get Herculean strength easily at home in spare time with this newly invented chest pull and bar bell combination.

GET BURSTING STRENGTH QUICKLY

No matter if you are a weakling or no matter if you already boast of super muscles, you will find this outfit and instructions that go with it to be just what you need. The entire equipment which contains dozens of individual features are all adjustable in tension, resistance, and strength. This permits you to regulate your workouts to meet the actual resistance of your strength and to increase the power progressively as you build a body of mighty muscles. Men in training and men who have reached the top in performing strong-man feats unanimously acclaim this new progressive chest pull and bar bell combination as being a great advancement in the invention of practical equipment to quickly get strong and develop bursting strength.

The combination is complete in every detail. It contains a new kind of progressive chest pull. Not rubber which wears out and loses its resistive strength, but very heavy and strong tension springs. These tension springs are adjustable so that you may use low strength until you get stronger and terrific pulling resistance when you are muscular. In a short time you will find yourself able to easily accomplish strong man feats which now seem difficult. Included is a specially invented bar bell hook-up. This bar bell outfit permits you to do all kinds of bar bell workouts. . . . permits you to practice for weight lifting and at the same time brings into play the muscles of your legs, chest, arms, and grip so that you build as you train. In addition to these valuable features there is a wall exerciser hook-up enabling you to do all kinds of bending and stretching exercises so necessary for speed and endurance. You also have the features of a rowing machine which is as great an abdominal builder and fat reducer. The hand grips included to help develop a mighty grip. The entire outfit is shipped to you along with pictorial and printed instructions so as to progressively enable you to get stronger day by day.

New PROGRESSIVE CHEST PULL & BAR BELL COMBINATION



Don't be bunked! Don't let anyone tell you that you can put inches on your biceps, on your chest, have mighty legs, or a mighty grip, or build any part of your body by fanning the air. No indeed. You need equipment and instructions such as we offer you here. BUT . . . we not only furnish you with equipment, we also supply specially prepared pictorial charts which guide you day by day.

Send No Money

Remember this equipment is used and recommended by many physical directors, boxing champs, and strong men. If it's good enough for them it should be good enough for you too. Order your set today and watch your muscles grow day by day. Just sign your name in the coupon checking outfit wanted. Pay postman price plus postage on arrival. If you can buy a stronger outfit than our Super X set we will give you double your money back. This set defies the lifting and stretching power of champions. Act at once and we will include free with your order the foot stirrups pictured below. If not satisfied after five days trial keep the stirrups and return the balance of the outfit for full refund of purchase price.



Foot stirrups important for foot and leg development. **FREE** with order. Permits intensive overhead workouts to develop a mighty torso.

FREE

You get many specially posed - pictorial instructions . . . a picture method showing short cuts to mighty muscles.



MUSCLE POWER CO., Dept. 1404
P.O. Box 1, Station K, New York, N. Y.

Send me the outfit checked below on five days' approval. Also enclose special pictorial and printed instructions. I will deposit amount of set plus postage in accordance with your guarantee. Enclose the stirrups free with my order.

☐ Send regular strength chest pull and bar bell combination. Set \$5.95.

☐ Send Super strength set at \$6.95.

(Send cash with order and we pay postage. Same guarantee.)

Name _____

Address _____

(SPECIAL) If you are aboard ship or outside of U. S. A. please send money order in American funds at prices listed above plus 60c.

BATMAN

WITH
ROBIN
- THE BOY WONDER -

YOU HAVE HEARD THAT THE SAVAGE LEOPARD CANNOT CHANGE ITS SPOTS, NOR THE CARRION-EATING VULTURE BECOME A GENTLE DOVE... BUT AS YOU TURN THE PAGES OF THIS STORY, YOU MAY BEGIN TO HAVE YOUR DOUBTS! FOR THAT JEERING APE,

THE JOKER-- THAT CRAFTY CLOWN OF CRIME, THAT GRINNING BARGOYLE OF GREED-- SUDDENLY FORSAKES HIS EVIL WAYS TO BECOME NOT ONLY AN HONEST, UPRIGHT CITIZEN, BUT A FIERCE FOE OF WRONG-DOERS AS WELL!....

READ ON--AND SHARE THE THRILLING, SPINE-CHILLING ADVENTURES OF THOSE SENSATIONAL CRIME-CRUSHERS, BATMAN AND ROBIN, AS THEY BATTLE THROUGH THE PITFALLS OF PERIL AND MAZES OF MYSTERY WHEN--**"THE JOKER REFORMS!"**

BOB
KANE



★ OUR HERO ★
THE MOST HONEST MAN IN TOWN

HOTEL



THIS IS THE LAZY LITTLE TOWN OF
PAAR CORNERS, HIDDEN DEEP IN THE
WILDS OF THE DARK MOUNTAINS...

AND THIS IS A STRANGER IN
TOWN -- A TALL, TRAVEL-WEARIED
WAYFARER WHOSE BUSINESS
IS WITH THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

THIS
WILL PROBABLY
BE THE BIGGEST
CASE THE CON-
STABLE HAS EVER
WORKED ON...

EXCUSE ME, MY
GOOD MAN... CAN
YOU DIRECT ME
TO THE CHIEF
OF POLICE?

RECKON YUH
MEAN JEB
JOHNSON,
TH' CONSTA-
BULE, PLAYIN'
CHECKERS WITH
SAM UPSON IN
TH' STORE!

GENERAL
STORE AND POST
OFFICE
SAM
UPSON
PROPRIETOR AND
POSTMASTER

ARE
YOU CONSTABLE
JEB
JOHNSON?

HEH, HEH!
LOOKS LIKE I
GOT YE BEAT,
JEB!

YEP,
YOUNG FELLER --
BUT I'M RIGHT
BUSY NOW!

IF YOU COULD SPARE A MINUTE
FROM YOUR GAME TO LOOK
THESE OVER...

JUMPIN'
TOAD-FROGS --
DIAMONDS!

AN'
EMERALDS -- AN'
RUBIES -- AN'
PEARLS!

THIS
PAPER WAS WITH THE
JEWELS! THEY MUST BE
THE LOOT FROM THAT
ROBBERY IN GOTHAM
CITY!

HOLD ON,
STRANGER! WHERE'D
YOU GET THIS STUFF?
WHO ARE YUH?

I FOUND THEM NEAR A PLANE
THAT CRASHED AND BURNED
A FEW MILES AWAY! I NEVER
HEARD OF THE JOKER OR THE
BATMAN, BUT I FIGURED IT
WAS A MATTER FOR THE
POLICE! AS FOR
ME, I'M...
ER...
ED
SMITH!

WAIT A MINUTE! WHERE
HAVE WE SEEN THESE
LEERING FEATURES BE-
FORE -- THESE GRINNING,
CRIMSON LIPS, THESE
GLITTERING EYES, ALIVE
WITH SATANIC CUNNING?
... WHY, IT'S THE JOKER
HIMSELF -- UNDYING ENEMY
OF THE MIGHTY BATMAN!
BUT AGAIN, WAIT! IS IT
POSSIBLE THAT THIS
GREEDY CLOWN OF CRIME
-- THIS HARLEQUIN OF HATE
-- IS ACTUALLY AIDING
THE FORCES OF LAW AND
ORDER, SURRENDERING HIS
SPOILS TO THE POLICE?

PERHAPS, AFTER ALL, WE SHOULD HAVE STARTED OUR TALE WITH A BRIEF BUT BITTER BATTLE THAT TOOK PLACE IN FAR-OFF GOTHAM CITY THE PRECEDING EVENING...



SWIFTER AND MORE ACCURATE THAN THE CRIMINALS' BULLETS, THE FLASHING FISTS OF THE BATMAN AND ROBIN FIND UNWILLING TARGETS...



BUT THE JOKER'S EVIL BAG OF TRICKS CONTAINS ONE THAT TURNS THE TIDE TEMPORARILY AGAINST JUSTICE...

WHA--? AN AMMONIA BOMB?

COME, FRIENDS, THE GETAWAY CAR IS WAITING!



THAT CLEVER FIEND HAS DONE IT AGAIN!

I THINK ONE OF THEM DROPPED THIS SCRAP OF PAPER... BUT MY EYES ARE BURNING SO I CAN'T READ WHAT'S ON IT!



MORNING FINDS A PLANE DRONING WESTWARD OVER A MOUNTAINOUS WILDERNESS...

HA, HA! I SHOWED THE BATMAN I WAS TOO SMART FOR HIM! EH, BOYS?

YOU SURE DID, JOKER! WITH THESE ROCKS AN' TH' STUFF FROM OUR OTHER JOBS, WE'LL BE MILLIONAIRES!

ME, THE BRAINIEST CRIMINAL ON EARTH--AND YOU THREE, THE MOST SKILLFUL OPERATORS IN THE UNDERWORLD! WE'VE HAD A LOT OF FUN, HAVEN'T WE, SPARKY?

I'LL HAVE MORE FUN WHEN I GET TO WHERE YOU CACHED THE SWAG, AND I GET MY SHARE!



WE'LL BE THERE IN JUST A FEW MINUTES AND---WHAT'S THIS? THE ENGINE'S GETTING READY TO QUIT!

WHAT A SPOT FOR A FORCED LANDING! WE'D NEVER MAKE IT!

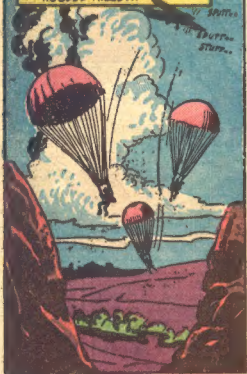


QUICK---BAIL OUT IN YOUR CHUTES!--I'LL HOLD HER STEADY TILL YOU'VE GONE, AND THEN I'LL FOLLOW YOU!

CHEE--Z DON'T MIND SHOOTIN', BUT DIS HIGH-DIVIN' ACT HAS GOT ME SCARED STIFF!



SO IT IS THAT THESE SILKEN
PARACHUTES MUSHROOM IN
THE AIR HIGH ABOVE THE
WOODED HILLS...



WHILE THE JOKER'S GREED
DRIVES HIM TO A TREACHEROUS
GAMBLE WITH FATE!

HA, HA! WHAT FOOLS THEY ARE!
IF I CAN KEEP THIS PLANE IN
THE AIR, I WON'T HAVE TO SPLIT
WITH THEM! THEY'LL NEVER
FIND THE HIDDEN LOOT-- AND
THEY'LL NEVER SEE ME AGAIN!
HA, HA!



BUT THE MOTOR IS IN WORSE
SHAPE THAN THE ARCH-CROOK
REALIZES... FLAMES BURST
FROM THE COWLING-- THE
CRAFT DIVES SHARPLY--
AND SECONDS LATER....



HOURS PASS--AND
IN A DENSE RAVINE
NOT FAR FROM
THE SMOKING RUINS
OF THE PLANE, A
SPRAWLED FIGURE
STIRS...



WHO AM I?
FUNNY... CAN'T SEEM TO
REMEMBER A THING! OH, WELL--
PERHAPS IT WILL ALL COME BACK
AS THE SHOCK WEARS OFF...
OH... MY HEAD IS SPINNING...



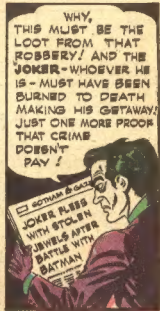
A PLANE!
CRASHED AND DESTROYED!
COULD I HAVE BEEN IN IT?
... BUT NO-- I'D CERTAINLY
HAVE BEEN KILLED IN THAT
CASE... HMM-- HERE'S
A VALISE THAT WAS
THROWN CLEAR.



JEWELS
WORTH A FORTUNE!
WONDER IF THIS NEWS-
PAPER THAT WAS IN-
SIDE THE VALISE CAN
TELL ME ANYTHING...?



WHY,
THIS MUST BE THE
LOOT FROM THAT
ROBBERY! AND THE
JOKER-- WHOEVER HE
IS-- MUST HAVE BEEN
BURNED TO DEATH
MAKING HIS GETAWAY!
JUST ONE MORE PROOF
THAT CRIME
DOESN'T
PAY!

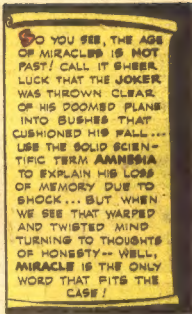




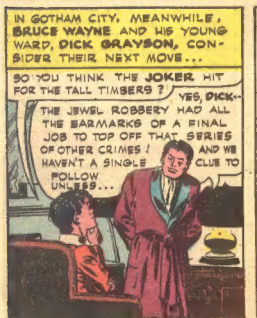
THESE GEMS
WOULD MAKE ME RICH--
BUT IT WOULDN'T BE RIGHT TO
KEEP THEM I'LL TURN
THEM OVER TO THE
AUTHORITIES ...



EVENTUALLY,
THIS ROAD WILL LEAD ME
TO SOME TOWN, WHERE I CAN
GIVE THIS STUFF TO THE POLICE
... AND MAYBE, ON THE WAY,
MY MEMORY WILL COME BACK!



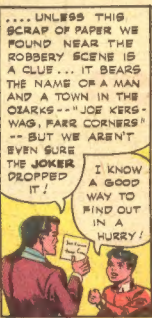
SO YOU SEE, THE AGE
OF MIRACLES IS NOT
PAST! CALL IT SHEER
LUCK THAT THE JOKER
WAS THROWN CLEAR
OF HIS DOOMED PLANE
INTO BUSHES THAT
CUSHIONED HIS FALL ...
USE THE SOLID SCIENTI-
FIC TERM **AMNESIA**
TO EXPLAIN HIS LOSS
OF MEMORY DUE TO
SHOCK ... BUT WHEN
WE SEE THAT WARPED
AND TWISTED MIND
TURNING TO THOUGHTS
OF HONESTY-- WELL,
MIRACLE IS THE ONLY
WORD THAT FITS THE
CASE!



IN GOTHAM CITY, MEANWHILE,
BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS YOUNG
WARD, **DICK GRAYSON**, CON-
SIDER THEIR NEXT MOVE ...

SO YOU THINK THE JOKER HIT
FOR THE TALL TIMBERS? YES, DICK--

THE JEWEL ROBBERY HAD ALL
THE earmarks OF A FINAL
JOB TO TOP OFF THAT SERIES
OF OTHER CRIMES! ... AND WE
HAVEN'T A SINGLE CLUE TO
FOLLOW
UNLESS ...



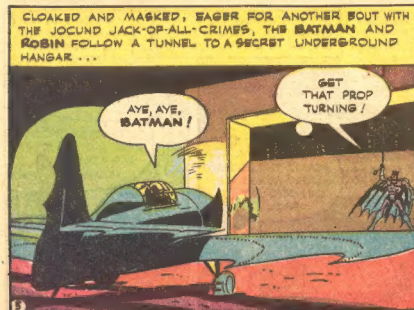
.... UNLESS THIS
SCRAP OF PAPER WE
FOUND NEAR THE
ROBBERY SCENE IS
A CLUE ... IT BEARS
THE NAME OF A MAN
AND A TOWN IN THE
OZARKS-- "JOE KERS-
WAG, FARR CORNERS"
-- BUT WE AREN'T
EVEN SURE
THE JOKER
DROPPED
IT!

I KNOW
A GOOD
WAY TO
FIND OUT
IN A
HURRY!



YOU'RE RIGHT, YOUNG FELLA-- WE
MIGHT BETTER BE TAKING A LOOK AT
FARR CORNERS THAN TWIDDLING OUR
THUMBS HERE!

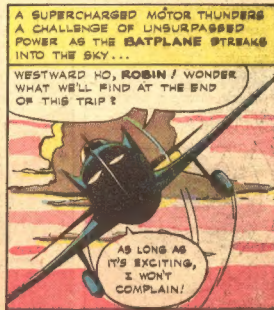
I CAN'T
RELAX ANYWAY,
THINKING OF THAT
LAUGHING HYENA
GETTING AWAY WITH
STOLEN MILLIONS!



CLOAKED AND MASKED, EAGER FOR ANOTHER BOUT WITH
THE JOGGING JACK-OF-ALL-CRIMES, THE **BATMAN** AND
ROBIN FOLLOW A TUNNEL TO A SECRET UNDERGROUND
HANGAR ...

AYE, AYE,
BATMAN!

GET
THAT PROP
TURNING!



A SUPERCHARGED MOTOR THUNDERS
A CHALLENGE OF UNSURPASSED
POWER AS THE **BATPLANE** STREAKS
INTO THE SKY ...

WESTWARD HO, **ROBIN**! WONDER
WHAT WE'LL FIND AT THE END
OF THIS TRIP?

AS LONG AS
IT'S EXCITING,
I WON'T
COMPLAIN!

WHILE THE DYNAMIC DUO OF CRIME-SMASHERS IS WIN-
ING SWIFTLY TOWARD ADVENTURE, THREE DOLEFUL
CROOKS PLOD GLUMLY TOWARD THE OUTSKIRTS OF
FARR CORNERS ...

WHAT A ROTTEN BREAK!
THE JOKER AND THE JEWELS
GONE--AND WE DON'T KNOW WHERE
THE REST OF THE SWAG
IS PLANTED!

YA WANNA
KNOW WHAT I THINK,
KITE? I-TINK THE
JOKER PULLED A
FAST ONE AN' LIT OUT
WIT' DA BOODLE!



YOU'RE DREAMING, NITRO!
WE DIDN'T SEE HIM JUMP,
SO HE MUST HAVE BURNED
UP WITH THE CRATE! IT'S
UP TO US TO GET BACK
TO THE BIG TOWN AND
MAKE ANOTHER
STAKE!

I'M GOIN' BACK TA DA
BIG TOWN, AWRIGHT,
SPARKY--BUT WHEN
I GET DERE, I'M
GONNA START LOOKIN'
FER DAT DOUBLE-
CROSSER WIT' A
PINAPPLE IN ME
POCKET!



BIGGEST
CELEBRATION SINCE
MA HUPPER'S
FUNERAL,
HANK!

THE DEJECTED TRIO HAS SPENT
MUCH TIME WANDERING IN THE
MOUNTAINS...AND THE SLEEPY
VILLAGE HAS TAKEN ON A FESTI-
VE AIR SINCE LAST WE VISITED
IT...

WELCOME
OUR
HERO

I'LL SAY THIS
FUR FARR CORNERS--
NOBODY LIKES T' WORK
BUT WHEN THERE'S A
PARTY BREWIN', EVERYBODY
WAKES UP AN' GETS BUSY!



WONDER
WHAT THE HICKS
ARE CELEBRATING?

AS MAYOR O'
THIS HERE TOWN,
I HAVE ORDERED
THIS HERE BLOW-
OUT T'DO HONOR TO
A STRANGER WHO
HAS PUT FARR COR-
NERS ON TH' MAP
AT LAST!



TOMORRA EVERY NEWS-
PAPER IN AMERICA WILL
TELL HOW ED SMITH BRUNG
ON TH' ENTERPRISIN' CON-
STABLE PRECIOUS JEWELS
STOLE BY CROOKS FROM TH'
WICKED CITIES O' TH' EAST,
WHICH SAME HE FOUND
OUT IN THE MOUNTAINS...

AIN'T IT WONDERFUL
T' THINK TH' NAME O'
FARR CORNERS WILL
SMACK EVERY AMER-
ICAN WHO CAN READ,
RIGHT IN TH' EYE,
FOLKS?

BUT THE JOKER'S ERSTWHILE
COMRADES IN CRIME HAVE A
SHOCK IN STORE FOR THEM...

AN' NOW I AM RIGHT
DUMFONDED WITH
JOY T' PRESENT TH'
HONESTEST MAN IN
THESE PARTS--GUEST O'
HONOR--ED SMITH HIS-
SELF, IN TH' FLESH!

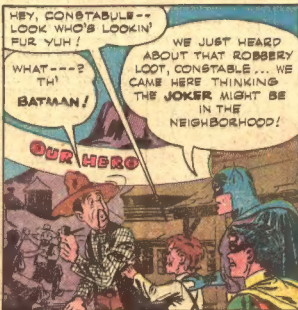


SOMEBODY
FOUND THE JOKER'S
VALISE! MAYBE WE
CAN STEAL IT
BACK!



SOME
CLOTHOPPER WHO DIDN'T
EVEN KNOW DA STUFF
WAS WORTH
DOUGH, I
BETCHA





'COURSE, I AIN'T NEVER SEEN THE JOKER - NOT EVEN HIS PITCHER, WAY OUT HERE! BUT COME OVER TO MY OFFICE AN' LET ED SMITH TELL YUH ABOUT IT... HE'S SO MODEST, HE'S HIDIN' THERE FROM THE CROWDS!

IF THERE'S THE SLIGHTEST CHANCE THAT THE JOKER IS LIVING... I WANT TO KNOW... HE'S THE MOST ELUSIVE CRIMINAL ON EARTH!

YOU'LL LIKE THIS FELLER! HE'S SO HONEST --- SO FRIENDLY!

GIVING UP A FORTUNE IN JEWELS PROVES HE'S HONEST, ANYWAY!

SMITH, MEET UP WITH TH' FAMOUS LAW-ENFORCIN' TEAM OF BATMAN AND ROBIN!

GLAD TO KNOW YOU, SMITH --- HUH?

IT'S A PLEASURE! I'VE BEEN READING ABOUT YOU GENTLEMEN IN THE NEWSPAPERS!

YOU LOOK AS IF I WERE A GHOST! IS THERE ANY-THING WRONG?

UH--ER-- I'M NOT QUITE SURE...

THERE'S PLENTY WRONG, IF IF ANYONE SHOULD ASK ME!

... AND THAT'S THE WHOLE STORY, MR BATMAN! NATURALLY, I BROUGHT THE STONES DIRECTLY TO THE AUTHORITIES!

IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE, ANY WAY I LOOK AT IT!

NATURALLY... HMMM... THERE'S NO DOUBT THAT THESE ARE THE ONES STOLEN IN GOTHAM CITY!

NICE HONEST FELLER... AIN'T HE?

LATER... WHY DIDN'T WE GRAB HIM RIGHT AWAY?

IN THE FIRST PLACE, WHETHER OR NOT HE'S BLUFFING ABOUT NOT RECOGNIZING US, I WANT TO FIND OUT WHAT HIS GAME IS... AND IN THE SECOND PLACE, I'D RATHER CATCH HIM WITH HIS LOOT FROM THOSE OTHER ROBBERIES THAN WITHOUT IT!

STILL UP? I'M GOING TO THE HOTEL FOR A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP!

WE'LL WALK WITH YOU IF YOU DON'T MIND, JOK--ER, SMITH!

PSST! HERE HE COMES!

TO THE SUSPICIOUS EYES OF THREE WATCHERS ON THE VERANDA OF THE LOCAL HOSTELRY, THE APPROACHING GROUP CAN HAVE ONLY ONE MEANING...

WHADDYA MEAN, GET OUT?
HOW CAN WE GET OUR DOUGH
WITHOUT THE JOKER?

NITRO'S RIGHT, SPARKY...
WE'VE GOT TO RESCUE
H.M.!

I DON'T LIKE IT--
BUT I'M GAME!

HEY!
DO YOU GUYS
SEE WHAT
I SEE?

THE
BATMAN
AND ROBIN
--AND THEY'VE
CAPTURED
THE
JOKER!

WE'D
BETTER GET
OUT OF
HERE!

THE NEXT INSTANT...

DON'T WORRY,
BOSS -- WE'LL
SAVE YA!

WHAT'S THE
MEANING OF
THIS? WHO ARE
YOU MEN?

AS IF YOU
DIDN'T KNOW.
YOU FOUR-FLUSHER!
THREE GOTHAM
CITY CROOKS!

BUT WITH DEATH A HAIRSBREADTH AWAY,
THE BATMAN AND ROBIN DISCOVER THAT
THEY HAVE AN UNSUSPECTED ALLY!

I'LL TEACH YOU
TO GO AROUND
POINTING GUNS
AT HONEST MEN!

YOU SAVED MY LIFE!
I--I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!

NEITHER CAN
NITRO, JUDGING
BY THE LOOK
ON HIS
PAN!

YOU'RE ONE KITE
THAT'S THROUGH WITH
HIGH-FLYING FOR A
WHILE!

WHY SHOULD
THE BATMAN BE
SURPRISED BECAUSE
I KEPT HIM FROM
BEING KILLED,
ROBIN?

MAYBE I'LL
TELL YOU
LATER...

... BUT RIGHT NOW, I'M
TRYING TO STRIKE SPARKS
FROM SPARKY'S EYEBROWS!

LET'S TAKE
IT ON DA LAM!
DA JOKER'S
DOUBLE-CROSS'N'
US!

NO USE CHASING THEM
IN THE DARK... I'VE
GOT A HUNCH THEY'LL
BE COMING BACK!

WHAT WAS THAT
LITTLE CHAP
SAYING ABOUT
THE JOKER?

YOU WOULDN'T
UNDERSTAND,
CHUM-- AND
DON'T ASK ME
WHY!

GOOD NIGHT,
FELLOW CRIME-FIGHTERS!
IF A CLEAR CONSCIENCE MAKES
A MAN SLEEP WELL, I OUGHT
TO GET A
GOOD REST!

HUH?
THAT IS - UH --
GOOD NIGHT...

BUT THERE IS NO REST FOR BATMAN
AND ROBIN, FACED WITH AS BAPPLING
A PROBLEM AS THEY HAVE EVER EN-
COUNTERED!...

COULD
BE -- BUT
HE DID
SAVE MY
LIFE -- WHEN EVERY
TIME WE'VE MET BE-
FORE, HE'S TRIED HIS
BEST TO KILL ME!

I TELL YOU
IT'S ANOTHER
OF HIS
DEVILISH
TRICKS!

COULD
BE -- BUT
HE DID
SAVE MY
LIFE -- WHEN EVERY
TIME WE'VE MET BE-
FORE, HE'S TRIED HIS
BEST TO KILL ME!

YOU CAN'T SELL ME THE JOKER
AS A REFORMED CHARACTER!
DON'T FORGET - THOSE JEWELS
HE SURRENDERED ARE ONLY A
SMALL PART OF THE SWAG HE
AND HIS PALS COLLECTED!

WELL, HE MUST
HAVE THE REST
HIDDEN SOME-
WHERE --- AND
AS SOON AS WE
GET A LINE ON IT,
WE'LL PCK
HIM UP!

INDEED, THE MATTER
OF THE HIDDEN LOOT
IS OCCUPYING THE
JOKER'S BRAIN AT
THIS PRECISE MO-
MENT! FOR THE
MEMORIES BANISHED
FROM HIS CONSCIOUS-
NESS BY THE PLANE
CRASH STILL LURK
DEEP IN THE RECES-
SES OF HIS SUBCON-
SCIOUS MIND, WHERE
DREAMS ARE
FASHIONED...

...AND A DREAM OF
STARTLING CLARITY
DISTURBS HIS
SLEEP...

GOLD -- JEWELS --
CASH... MILLIONS IN
STOLEN LOOT... PACKED
AWAY IN BOXES AND
TRUNKS...

WHA -- ? ... I'VE BEEN
DREAMING ... AND YET IT
WAS SO VIVID --- SO
REALISTIC --- I'M SURE IT
MUST BE TRUE!

I'LL DO IT!
I'LL TAKE A LOOK AND
MAKE SURE WHETHER THE
DREAM WAS TRUE 'WOULDN'T
IT BE WONDERFUL IF I
COULD RETURN ALL THAT
STOLEN PROPERTY TO ITS
RIGHTFUL OWNERS?

A GAUNT
FIGURE SLIPS
OUT OF A
WINDOW
OF THE HOTEL
AND SLINKS
INTO THE
SHADOWS...

I FEEL
LIKE A CROOK
USING THE WINDOW
AS AN EXIT -- BUT
THERE'S NO NEED
TO DISTURB
ANYONE...

HOTEL

... BUT NOT UNSEEN !

SO DAT'S IT --
HE'S GONNA ROB DA
EXPRESS OFFICE WIT'OUT
LETTIN' US IN ON IT!

THE CHANCES
ARE IT'S SOMETHING
BIGGER THAN THAT... BUT
WHATEVER IT IS, WE'LL COUNT
OURSELVES IN !

INSIDE THE EXPRESS OFFICE...

WOULDN'T IT BE
FUNNY IF SOMEBODY
CAUGHT ME HERE ? WHY,
THEY'D PROBABLY THINK
I WAS A THIEF !
HA, HA, HA, HA !

"FUNNY" ISN'T THE WORD FOR IT, JOKER -- OR
RATHER, "ED SMITH" -- NOT IN THIS CASE !

AT LAST,
WE'VE GOT YOU
WHERE WE
WANT YOU !

WHAT ! YOU
HOODLUMS
AGAIN ?

YA
DONE US
DIRT FOR THE
LAST TIME !

ALL RIGHT--START TALKING !
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE ?
WHERE'S THE
STUFF FROM
THOSE
ROBBERIES
WE
PULLED ?

STUFF FROM
ROBBERIES
YOU PULLED ?
IF YOU DON'T
KNOW, HOW
SHOULD I ?

LET'S
GET OUTA DIS TOWN !
WE GOT WAYS O' MAKIN'
HIM TALK !

THIS WILL KEEP
HIM QUIET TILL
WE GET HIM TO
A PLACE WHERE
NOISE WON'T
MATTER !

AND AT THAT VERY MOMENT,
THE BATMAN'S MIND SOLVES
A PROBLEM THAT HAS PUZZLED
HIM ALL DAY...

THAT SCRAP OF PAPER WE FOUND
IN GOTHAM CITY... "JOE KERSWAS"
... OF COURSE -- I'VE GOT IT !
COME ON, ROBIN-- TO THE
EXPRESS OFFICE !

SNAP !

HUH ?

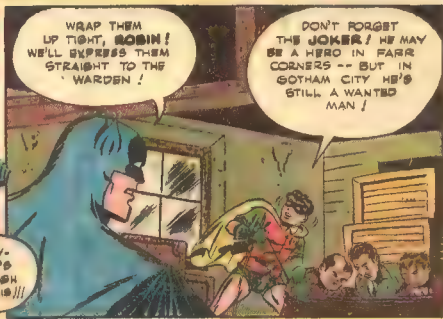
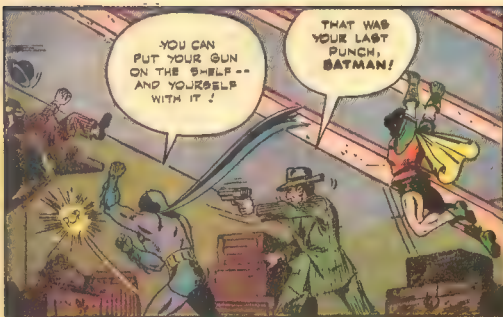
SECONDS LATER, THE BATTLING DUO LEAPS LIKE TWIN
PROJECTILES THROUGH AN OPEN WINDOW...

WELL, WELL -- LOOKS AS
IF WE'RE GOING TO HAVE THE
RARE EXPERIENCE OF
RESCUING THE JOKER
FROM CRIMINALS !

THEY'VE
GOT THE
JOKER !

THE
BATMAN !

AND
ROBIN !

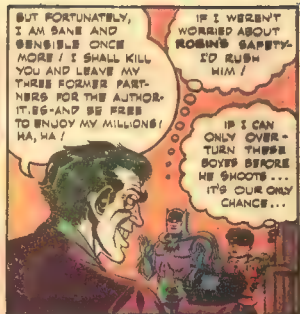




FOR A WHILE
WE WERE ALMOST
READY TO BELIEVE YOU
WERE A REFORMED
CHARACTER / YOU TURNED
IN STOLEN GEMS TO THE
POLICE... YOU SAVED
THE BATMAN'S
LIFE!

I MUST HAVE BEEN
CRAZY! ALL I CAN
REMEMBER IS MY PLANE
FALLING....

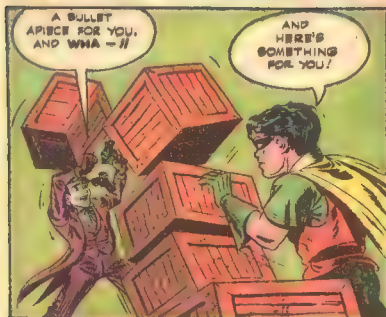
YOU HAD AMNESIA,
JOKER! I SUSPECTED
IT FROM THE FIRST
AND NOW I'M
SURE!



BUT FORTUNATELY,
I AM SANE AND
SENSIBLE ONCE
MORE / I SHALL KILL
YOU AND LEAVE MY
THREE FORMER PART-
NERS FOR THE AUTHOR-
ITY... AND BE FREE
TO ENJOY MY MILLIONS!
HA, HA!

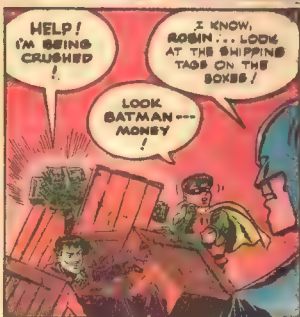
IF I WEREN'T
WORRIED ABOUT
ROBIN'S SAFETY-
I'D RUSH
HIM!

IF I CAN
ONLY OVER-
TURN THESE
BOXES BEFORE
HE SHOOTS...
IT'S OUR ONLY
CHANCE...



A BULLET
APRICE FOR YOU,
AND WHA - !!

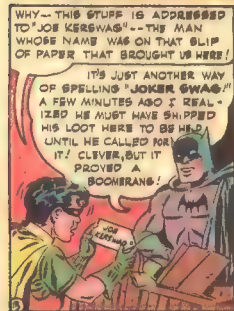
AND
HERE'S
SOMETHING
FOR YOU!



HELP!
I'M BEING
CRUSHED
!

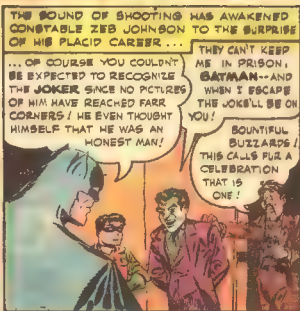
I KNOW,
ROBIN... LOOK
AT THE SHIPPING
TAGS ON THE
BOXES!

LOOK
BATMAN---
MONEY
!



WHY-- THIS STUFF IS ADDRESSED
TO "JOE KERSWAG"--THE MAN
WHOSE NAME WAS ON THAT SLIP
OF PAPER THAT BROUGHT US HERE!

IT'S JUST ANOTHER WAY
OF SPELLING "JOKER SWAG"
A FEW MINUTES AGO I REAL-
IZED HE MUST HAVE SHIPPED
HIS LOOT HERE TO BE HIDE
UNTIL HE CALLED FOR
IT! CLEVER, BUT IT
PROVED A
BOOMERANG!



THE SOUND OF SHOOTING HAS AWAKENED
CONSTABLE ZEB JOHNSON
TO THE SURPRISE
OF HIS PLACID CAREER...

...OF COURSE YOU COULDN'T
BE EXPECTED TO RECOGNIZE
THE JOKER SINCE NO PICTURES
OF HIM HAVE REACHED FARR
CORNERS! HE EVEN THOUGHT
HIMSELF THAT HE WAS AN
HONEST MAN!

THEY CAN'T KEEP
ME IN PRISON,
BATMAN--AND
WHEN I ESCAPE
THE JOKER'LL BE ON
YOU!

BOUNTIFUL
BUZZARDS!
THIS CALLS FOR A
CELEBRATION
THAT IS
ONE!



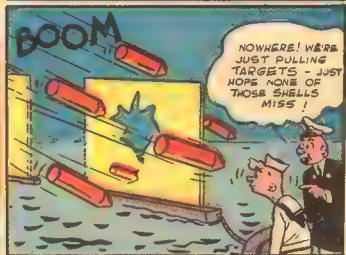
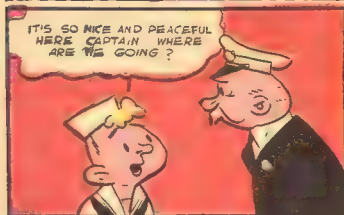
DAWN AND THE BAT-
PLANE BEARS A WEARY
BUT TRIUMPHANT AIR
HOMEWARD...

BATMAN, I CAN'T GET
OVER THE JOKER BEING
A DECENT CITIZEN
FOR A DAY... EVEN IF
IT WAS UNINTENTIONAL!

THERE'S SOME GOOD IN
THE WORST OF MEN.
ROBIN--BUT IN HIS
CASE, IT WAS BURIED
SO DEEP, IT TOOK A
PLANE CRASH TO JAR
IT LOOSE TEMPORARILY.

SHORTY

by HENRY BOSTON

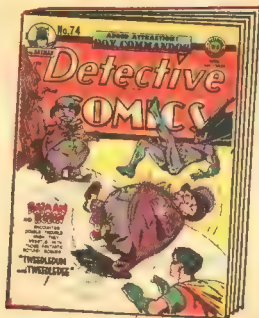


THE WINNING TEAM!!

**BATMAN AND ROBIN
ARE AMERICA'S
No.1 ACTION TEAM!
FOLLOW THEIR EXPLOITS
IN EVERY ISSUE OF
DETECTIVE COMICS!**

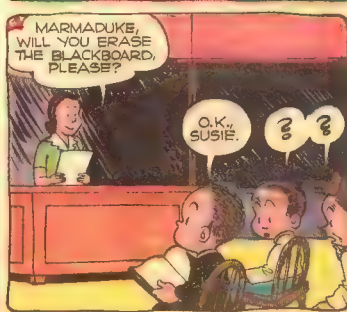
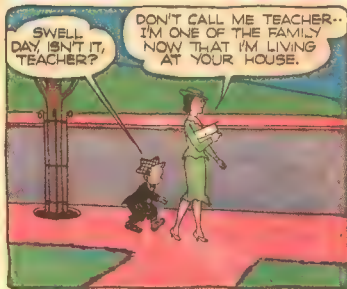
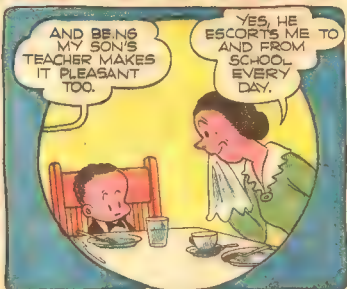
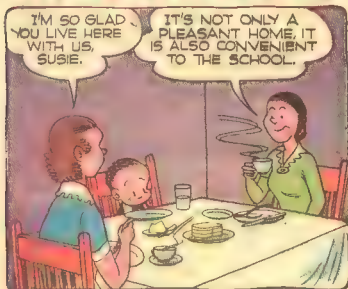


**ALSO IN EACH ISSUE
OF DETECTIVE COMICS:
BOY COMMANDOS!
--MOST SENSATIONAL
NEW STRIP OF THE YEAR!**



**A NEW ISSUE
ON SALE
EVERY MONTH!**

MARMADUKE • JONES



SILLY WILLY

NEWT
BOOTHBY

THIS SPOT LOOKS
VERY QUIET!

I'LL HAVE TO GET OFF BY MYSELF
TO GET IT DONE!

THERE - NOW I CAN DO MY KNITTING
FOR THE RED CROSS WITHOUT ANYONE
MAKING FUN OF ME!

BOMBSHELL!

THE SENSATIONAL YOUNG
HEROES OF THE YEAR'S
MOST SENSATIONAL NEW
COMIC STRIP NOW HAVE A
MAGAZINE OF THEIR OWN!

THE FIRST ISSUE OF THIS
~~SLAM-BANG~~ FAST-ACTION
MAGAZINE SOLD OUT!
READERS ARE STILL
RAVING ABOUT IT... SO
DON'T MISS THIS

2ND BIG ISSUE

ON SALE FEB. 5TH



BATMAN



ROBIN

THE BOY WONDER

**ROBBERY AND VIOLENCE
RUN RAMPANT AS A
NEW, BAFFLING CRIME
WAVE SWEEPS OVER
GOTHAM CITY—AN EVIL
BREW CONCOCTED IN THE
FERTILE BRAIN OF AN IN-
GENUOUS CRIMINAL! UN-
SUSPECTED, UNKNOWN...
HE WALKS AMONG HIS
VICTIMS WHILE HIS HIRE-
LINGS OBEY HIS COMMANDS
AND ESCAPE BEFORE THE
VERY EYES OF THE BUZZ-
ZLED POLICE! EVEN THE
AGILE WITS OF
BATMAN AND ROBIN,
THE BOY WONDER, ARE
PUT TO A SEVERE TEST
WHEN THEY TRY TO
SOLVE THE MYSTERY
OF ---**

**"The GRADE A
CRIMES!"**



FOR VICTORY



THE DARK HOUR BEFORE DAWN...
GOTHAM CITY SLEEPS! ALL BUT
THE FAITHFUL SERVANTS OF RICH
AND POOR ALIKE...THE MILKMEN!



SUDDENLY! A RINGING SHOT CRASHES THROUGH THE SILENCE ... A SHADOWY FIGURE SPEEDS QUICKLY INTO THE DARKNESS...

...TO BE SWALLOWED UP BY THE NIGHT--LEAVING ONLY THE MILKMAN AND HIS HORSE PLODDING ON THEIR WEARY ROUND!



NEXT MORNING ...

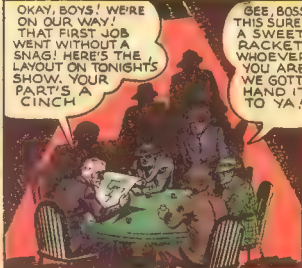
MEANWHILE, IN A DISTANT HIDEOUT, AN ARCH-CRIMINAL MAPS A MASTER PLAN FOR PLUNDER!

OKAY, BOYS! WE'RE ON OUR WAY! THAT FIRST JOB WENT WITHOUT A SNAG! HERE'S THE LAYOUT ON TONIGHT'S SHOW. YOUR PART'S A CINCH

GEE, BOSS, THIS SURE IS A SWEET RACKET! WHOEVER YOU ARE, WE GOTTA HAND IT TO YA!

HA! WHAT A SENSATION IF MY IDENTITY WERE KNOWN! ... AT LAST I SHALL REAP THE REWARD OF MY CAREFUL PLANS... THE FABULOUS GEMS OF THE AGES WILL BE LONG TO ME!

DAILY BUGLE
DARING EARLY BIRD ROBBERY
VAN DORN JEWELS STOLEN
SERVANT SHOT IN BACK



THIS STARTS THE BAFFLING "EARLY BIRD" CRIME WAVE... WITHOUT WARNING, THE MYSTERY CRIMINALS STRIKE! UNSEEN, THEY MELT BACK INTO THE NIGHT!

BULL'S-EYE! HE DIDN'T HAVE A CHANCE TO SPOT US!

WHAT GOES ON HERE?..
OHHHHH!!

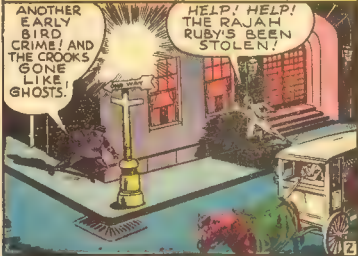
C'MON! I'VE GOT THE EMERALD COLLECTION!



...AND ALWAYS THEY WORK IN THOSE EERIE HOURS BEFORE DAWN ... WHEN ONLY THE MILKMAN AND THE WARY CRIMINAL TRAVERSE THE CITY'S STREETS!

ANOTHER EARLY BIRD CRIME! AND THE CROOKS GONE LIKE GHOSTS.

HELP! HELP! THE RAJAH RUBY'S BEEN STOLEN!



WHILE SOMEWHERE NEAR THE CRIME-SWEPT CITY, THE MASTER CRIMINAL GLOATS!

AH! ANOTHER FLAWLESS BEAUTY! I'LL NEVER SELL THIS ONE!

THE MYSTERIOUS CRIME WAVE CONTINUES! CLUES? NONE! BUT THERE IS A PATTERN FOR THOSE WHO CAN SEE IT — AND THERE IS ONE WHO CAN! BATMAN, THAT NEMESIS OF CRIME WHO CLOAKS HIS IDENTITY BEHIND THE GUISE OF PLAYBOY BRUCE WAYNE!

AND, AS ONE NIGHT HE LEAVES THE LAVISH MORGON MANSION, WITH HIS YOUNG WARD, DICK GRAYSON..

WAY PAST YOUR BEDTIME, YOUNGSTER! I DIDN'T THINK THE RECEPTION WOULD LAST SO LATE!

BOY! DID YOU SEE THOSE WEDDING GIFTS? BET THEY TEMPT THOSE EARLY BIRD CROOKS!

AN ODD TRICK OF LIGHT THROWS THE SHADOW OF BATMAN ON A WALL... A WARNING OMEN TO GANGDOM!

THAT'S A MIGHTY STRANGE BUSINESS...NO CLUES, NO CROOKS—AND NO JEWELS!

WHAT PUZZLES ME, IS HOW THOSE THUGS GET IN SO EASILY! ALMOST LIKE GHOSTS!

SUDDENLY...A SHOT! A PIERCING CRY...AND THE SHARP STACCATO OF RUNNING FEET!

CRACK!
YAAAAAAA!

YES, BUT GHOSTS DON'T SHOOT!

— AND THAT MEANS WORK FOR US!

INSTANTLY—A STARTLING CHANGE COMES OVER THE PAIR! A FEW QUICK MOVEMENTS, AND THEY RACE DOWN THE STREET AS BATMAN AND ROBIN!

ANOTHER EARLY BIRD CRIME! THAT SHOT CAME FROM THE MORGON MANSION.

LOOK! SOMEONE'S GETTING AWAY!

YEOW! BATMAN!

NOT SO FAST, PAL!

BUT AS BATMAN STRUGGLES WITH THE CLOAKED CRIMINAL, ANOTHER FIGURE LEAPS SUDDENLY FROM THE SHADOWS!



AND THE SCALES ARE TIPPED AGAINST THE GALLANT DUO... WITH YOUNG ROBIN'S LIFE IN THE BALANCE!

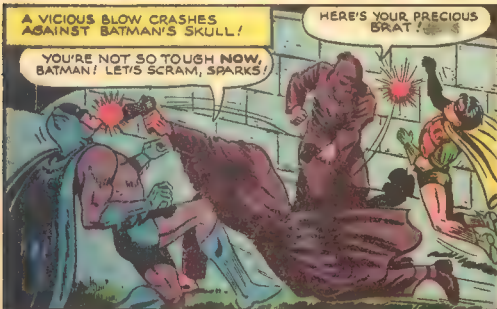


STEP BACK, WISE GUY... OR THIS KID'LL LOOK LIKE A WOODPECKER'S MASTERPIECE!

OKAY! YOU WIN! BUT THIS IS ONLY ROUND ONE!

A VICIOUS BLOW CRASHES AGAINST BATMAN'S SKULL!

YOU'RE NOT SO TOUGH NOW, BATMAN! LET'S SCRAM, SPARKS!

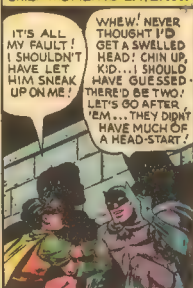


HERE'S YOUR PRECIOUS BRAT!

BRIEF MOMENTS LATER...

IT'S ALL MY FAULT! I SHOULDN'T HAVE LET HIM SNEAK UP ON ME!

WHEW! NEVER THOUGHT I'D GET A SWELLED HEAD! CHIN UP, KID... I SHOULD HAVE GUESSED THERE'D BE TWO! LET'S GO AFTER 'EM... THEY DIDN'T HAVE MUCH OF A HEAD-START!



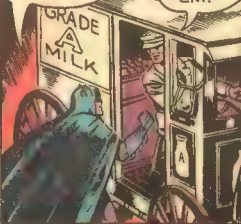
DOWN THE STREET CLATTERS A MILKWAGON, TOWED BY A WEARY OLD HORSE...

THEY WENT THIS WAY! MAYBE THAT MILKMAN SAW THEM!



...YES, A ROBBERY AND SHOOTING! YOU'RE CERTAIN YOU DIDN'T SEE ANYONE?

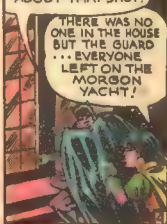
NOPE! NOT EVEN A CAT! ME AND OLD DAISY WERE SURE WOULD HAVE SPOTTED 'EM!



A BEWILDERED DUO TURNS BACK TOWARD THE SILENT MORGON MANSION...

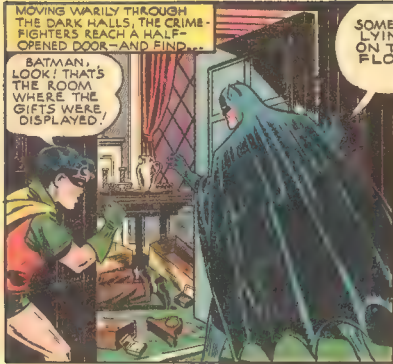
'WELL, AT LEAST WE CAN FIND OUT ABOUT THAT SHOT!

THERE WAS NO ONE IN THE HOUSE BUT THE GUARD... EVERYONE LEFT ON THE MORGON YACHT!



MOVING WARILY THROUGH THE DARK HALLS, THE CRIME-FIGHTERS REACH A HALF-OPENED DOOR-AND FIND...

BATMAN, LOOK! THAT'S THE ROOM WHERE THE GIFTS WERE DISPLAYED!



SOMEONE'S LYING ON THE FLOOR!

IT'S THE GUARD!

POOR CHAP... HE DIDN'T HAVE A CHANCE. SHOT IN THE BACK BY THOSE YELLOW MURDERERS!



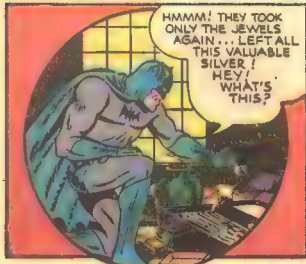
TWO WEARY ADVENTURERS FINALLY REACH HOME... AND BED!

I'VE GOT TO FIGURE THIS OUT! ALWAYS THE SAME PATTERN... MYSTERIOUS ENTRY AT 5 OR 4 A.M.,--ONLY VALUABLE GEMS STOLEN... THE GUARD ALWAYS TAKEN BY SURPRISE, AND SHOT IN THE BACK! AND A PARTY ALWAYS PRECEDING THE LOOTING!... WHAT'S IT ALL MEAN?

HO! HUM! DON'T FORGET THAT WHITE BUTTON!



HMMM! THEY TOOK ONLY THE JEWELS AGAIN... LEFT ALL THIS VALUABLE SILVER! HEY! WHAT'S THIS?



A WHITE BUTTON! TORN FROM A WHITE COAT... AND THOSE CROOKS WERE WEARING BLACK MANTLES... VERY ODD!



NEXT MORNING... BRUCE AND DICK ARE STILL TRYING TO SOLVE THE MYSTERY...

I KNOW THE ANSWER'S RIGHT HERE! IF I CAN JUST FIT THE PIECES TOGETHER... THIS WHITE BUTTON... THE WHOLE CRIME PATTERN...

MMM! THIS MILK TASTES GOOD!



MILK! THAT'S IT! WOW! WHAT A SET-UP! SO SIMPLE... SO COMPLETELY SAFE! WHAT A FOOL I AM! LET THEM SLIP RIGHT OUT OF MY HANDS!

OOPS! ... LET ME IN ON THIS!



--ALL THIS ADDS UP AT LAST! 4 A.M. IN THE MORNING--A WHITE BUTTON--MYSTERIOUS GETAWAY... THE MILKMAN.

JEEPERS! YOU MEAN THAT MILK DRIVER WAS ONE OF THE CROOKS?



RIGHT! THE OTHER THUG WAS PROBABLY HIDING IN THE BACK OF THE MILK WAGON! NOW TO FIGURE OUT HOW THEY GOT IN SO EASILY... DICK, WE'RE GOING TO A PARTY TONIGHT!

OKAY - BUT THIS NIGHT LIFE IS WEARING ME DOWN!



IN BRUCE WAYNE'S LABORATORY . . .

IT'S ALL CLEAR NOW! THOSE CRIMES ALWAYS OCCUR AFTER A PARTY! THAT MEANS SOMEONE AT EACH PARTY IS THE INSIDE MAN - GETS THE LAYOUT, MAYBE STEALS THE KEYS..

YOU MEAN THE CROOKS WILL PROBABLY STRIKE AT WINTHROP'S AFTER THE SHINDIG, TONIGHT?



SURE! THE DORLAI DIAMOND'S THE BEST BAIT YET! HERE, ROBIN - PREPARE THIS FORMULA WHILE I DO SOME CHECKING UP ON THOSE OTHER PARTIES!

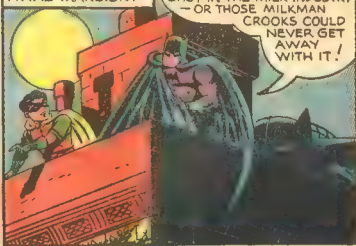
RIGHT!



AS THE MID-NIGHT HOUR CHIMES, AN AWESOME SHAPE WINGS SILENTLY ACROSS THE SKY... THE BATPLANE!



AND, LIKE A GREAT, SILENT BIRD, COMES TO REST ON THE ROOF OF A PALATIAL MANSION!



OUR FISHING SHOULD BE DOUBLY GOOD TONIGHT! WHOEVER'S BEHIND THESE CRIMES MUST BE A BIG SHOT IN THE MILK INDUSTRY - OR THOSE MILKMAN CROOKS COULD NEVER GET AWAY WITH IT!

A PRECARIOUS CLIMB DOWN A VINE-TRELLISED WALL...



AND THERE'LL BE DAIRY AND MILK COMPANY MEN AT TONIGHT'S PARTY!

HOW DO YOU KNOW?

...AND TWO MORE DIS- TINGUISHED GUESTS JOIN THE PARTY... UNSEEN!



S-S-SH! HERE COME SOME PEOPLE. LOOK! IT'S WINTHROP HIMSELF WITH ANOTHER GUEST.

A RARE GEM, BILL! ALMOST PRICELESS! I'M KEEPING IT MIGHTY WELL GUARDED!

WELL, WINTHROP, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE DORLAI DIAMOND? AS A JEWEL COLLECTOR YOU SHOULD KNOW ITS WORTH!

(BETTER THAN YOU THINK, WINTHROP!)
YOU SEE, ROBIN, WINTHROP IS TREAS-
URER OF THE PURITY MILK CO. -
BIGGEST IN TOWN!

I GET IT!
THAT MEANS
PLENTY OF HIS
BUSINESS FRIENDS
WILL BE HERE -
INCLUDING THE
"INSIDE MAN" WHO'S
THE CHIEF CROOK!

EXACTLY! ONLY TROUBLE IS,
WINTHROP AND AT LEAST THREE
OTHERS IN THERE WERE PRE-
SENT AT THE OTHER PARTIES...
I CHECKED UP THIS AFTERNOON!

GOSH,
WE'RE
STYMIED
THEN!

I'M NOT SO SURE!
SOMEONE IS STILL
HERE... OFFERING
THE GUARDS!
A NIGHT-CAP!

THEY'RE
LEAVING-
AND
WE'VE
FOUND
OUT
NOTHING!

FINALLY... THE LAST LIGHT
GOES OUT, AND A MANTLE
OF SILENCE ENVELOPS
THE WINTHROP HOME.

IF THE CROOKS STRIKE HERE TO-
NIGHT, THEY'LL FIND UNPLEAS-
ANT COMPANY! ROBIN, YOU
HAVE THE CHEMICAL - GO
DOWN AND WATCH FOR
THE MILKMAN!

OKAY! I'LL
JUST
HANG ON
TO THIS
CLINGING
VINE!

A SHADOW-LIKE FIGURE GLIDES
INTO THE GUARDED ROOM...
AND FINDS...

A FINE PAIR OF
WATCH-DOGS
YOU ARE!

HA! I THOUGHT SO... IT
WASN'T THE HOUR THAT PUT YOU
TO SLEEP! SO YOU GAVE YOUR-
SELF AWAY, MR. CHIEF CROOK!
OHO! TIME FOR THE MILKMAN...
AND TIME FOR ME
TO RETIRE

SUDDENLY - A STEALTHY
FOOTSTEP... A HAND
TURNING A DOOR-KNOB...

AND BATMAN WAITS, NERVES
TENSED... EYES FOCUSED...

LIKE AN EVIL GNOME OF NIGHT, THE CLOAKED MARAUDER STEALS UP ON THE HELPLESS GUARDS.

CAN'T LET THEM SHOOT THE GUARDS! HAVE TO CHANGE MY PLANS SOMEWHAT!

AN AGILE, CAT-LIKE LEAP...AND A LEAN FIGURE SPRINGS FROM THE SHADOWS!

JUST SO'S YOU WON'T LOOK DRUGGED, I'LL PUMP SOME LEAD INTO YA!

I HOPE I'M INTRUDING!

EOW!
I'M SEEING THINGS!

YES!
YOU'RE SEEING STARS!

WITHOUT WARNING, A GLARING BEAM OF LIGHT STABS OUT FROM NOWHERE... BLINDING BATMAN!

AND YOU'VE SEEN TOO MUCH FOR YOUR OWN HEALTH!

WHAT..!

A BULLET WHINES THROUGH THE AIR...

GOT HIM!

CRACK

CRUMPLED FIGURE LIES UPON THE FLOOR! CAN IT BE... HAS THE CHAMPION OF JUSTICE FOUGHT HIS LAST BATTLE AGAINST EVIL?

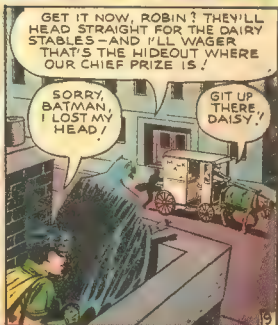
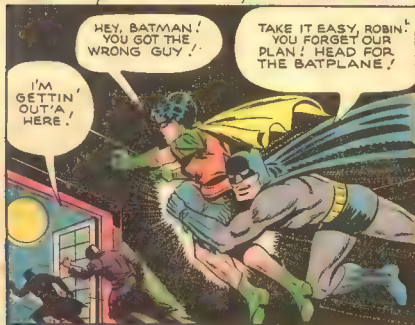
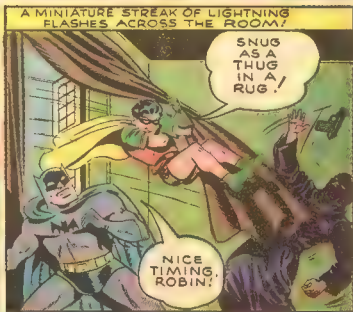
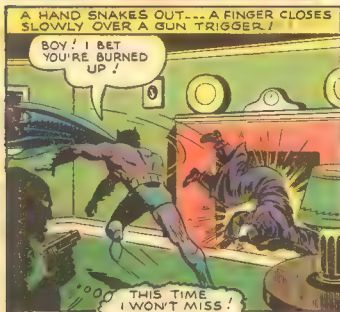
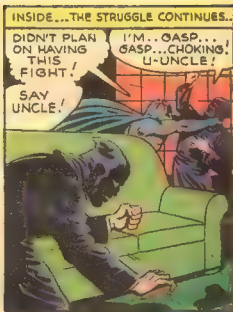
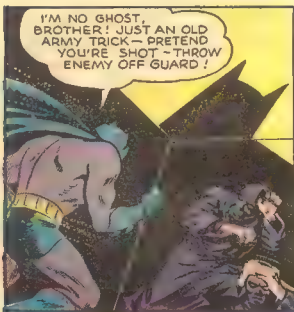
IT'S BATMAN AGAIN! DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY THIS TIME!

HE DON'T LOOK LIKE HE'LL EVER GO ANYPLACE AGAIN! BUT WE'LL MAKE SURE!

BUT BATMAN IS VERY MUCH ALIVE!

I'M GOING PLACES RIGHT NOW!

HELP!
HE AIN'T DEAD!



A DARK SKY -
AND A WEIRD
SIGHT BELOW!
A SILENT,
WINGED BLACK
PLANE FLYING
CLOSE ABOVE
A COUNTRY
ROAD!

THESE LENSES WILL FILTER
OUT THE INFRA-RED PAINT I
USED ON DAISY'S HOOVES!
LOOK! THERE'S THE FARM!

PRESENTLY, TWO SHAPES BLEND WITH THE
SHADOWS AS THEY STREAK THROUGH THE FARM GROUNDS!

GOOD!
NOW TO
GET DOWN TO
EARTH-
AND
BUSINESS!

THAT
HAYSTACK WILL
CONCEAL THE
BATPLANE...
LET'S TRY
THE BARN
FIRST!

A MODEL FARM - GLEAMING
AND SPOTLESS... EQUIPPED
WITH EVERY MODERN ELEC-
TRICAL CONVENIENCE!

STILL SEEKING THE LAST CLUE
TO THE ROBBERIES... THE CRIME
CRUSHERS SLIP SILENTLY
INTO THE MILKING BARN...

SWIFTLY, THE DYNAMIC DUO DIS-
APPEARS... AS TWO WHITE-
COATED FIGURES ENTER THE BARN!

NOTHING OUT
OF ORDER HERE!
HOLY COW! WHAT
A NEAT IDEA FOR
A PERFECT
HIDE-OUT!

HERE'S
ONE OF
THOSE ELEC-
TRICAL MILK-
ING PUMPS
-WORK BY
SUCTION!

QUICK!
INTO THE
STALL!
SOMEONE'S
COMING!

I TELL
YA, BOSS-
HE FOUGHT
LIKE TEN
MEN! WE
DIDN'T
STAND A
CHANCE!

YOU FOOLS!
I THOUGHT YOU
COULD AIM
STRAIGHT! HE
LET YOU GO FOR
A PURPOSE! PROBABLY
ON OUR TRAIL
RIGHT NOW... BUT
HE'LL NEVER
FIND THESE!

A FABULOUS, GLITTERING STREAM FLOWS
OUT OF THE MILKING PUMP... INTO A
MILK CAN!

WOW! I WISH
ALL COWS GAVE MILK
LIKE THIS!

TIME
FOR US TO
CLEAR OUT
OF HERE!
I'LL PAY
YOU BOYS
OFF AND
WE'LL SCRAM!

THAT CACHE LOOKS
LIKE A REAL MILK-
ING PUMP... YOU'RE
SURE SMART, BOSS!
WHO'D LOOK FOR
JOOLES IN A
DAIRY!?

AS THOUGH FROM NOWHERE, TWIN THUNDERBOLTS
FLASH ACROSS THE BARN!

WE
WOULD! YOU'VE
DONE ENOUGH
"MILKING!"

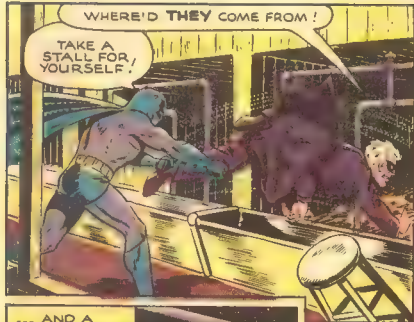
GET
THE GANG,
SPARKS!
UGH!

YEOW!
BATMAN,
AGAIN!

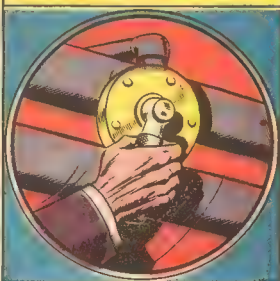
AND
DON'T
FORGET
ME!

WHERE'D THEY COME FROM!

TAKE A
STALL FOR
YOURSELF!



A FURTIVE HAND STEALS
OUT—A LEVER FALLS!



... AND A
SUDDEN BLAST
OF WATER
PLUNGES
DOWNWARD!

THE
WASHING
SYSTEM!

WHAT
NEXT?
WATERFALLS
IN A DAIRY!



HAMPERED BY THE CLINGING FOLDS OF HIS CAPE, BATMAN
FIGHTS ON... BUT THE DYNAMIC DUO IS SOON OUTNUMBERED...

GLUG!
GLUG!

TSK! TSK!
CRYING
OVER SPILLED
MILK!

A DOUBLE-HEADER!
LOOK OUT, ROBIN!

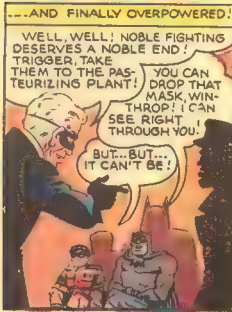


...AND FINALLY OVERPOWERED!

WELL, WELL! NOBLE FIGHTING
DESERVES A NOBLE END!
TRIGGER, TAKE
THEM TO THE PAS-
TEURIZING PLANT!

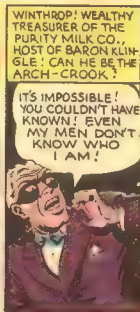
YOU CAN
DROP THAT
MASK, WIN-
THROP! I CAN
SEE RIGHT!
THROUGH YOU.

BUT...BUT...
IT CAN'T BE!



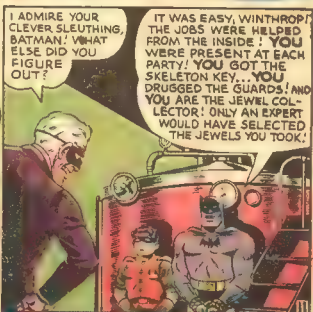
WINTHROP! WEALTHY
TREASURER OF THE
PURITY MILK CO.,
HOST OF BARON KLIN-
GLE! CAN HE BE THE
ARCH-CROOK?

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
YOU COULDN'T HAVE
KNOWN! EVEN
MY MEN DON'T
KNOW WHO
I AM!



I ADMIRE YOUR
CLEVER SLEUTHING,
BATMAN! WHAT
ELSE DID YOU
FIGURE
OUT?

IT WAS EASY, WINTHROP!
THE JOBS WERE HELPED
FROM THE INSIDE! YOU
WERE PRESENT AT EACH
PARTY! YOU GOT THE
SKELETON KEY... YOU
DRUGGED THE GUARDS! AND
YOU ARE THE JEWEL COL-
LECTOR! ONLY AN EXPERT
WOULD HAVE SELECTED
THE JEWELS YOU TOOK!



WHEN ONE OF YOUR THUGS LEFT A WHITE BUTTON BEHIND... THE REST WAS EASY: NO ONE SUSPECTED A MILKMAN, BUT A MILKMAN WAS ALWAYS AROUND!

TOO BAD YOU CAN'T REPORT YOUR FINDINGS! WHEN THIS THERMOMETER READS 145 DEGREES, YOU AND THE KID ARE GOING INTO THE VAT! GRADE A PASTEURIZED CORPSES!



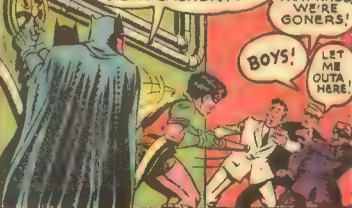
BUT BATMAN HOLDS A DANGEROUS ACE! THE LIVE-STEAM HOSE FOR CLEANING THE VATS!

NOT SO FAST, WINTHROP! DON'T MOVE, ANYONE! ONE STEP AND YOU'LL LOOK LIKE STUFFED SHIRTS IN A STEAM LAUNDRY!

YEOW! IF HE TURNS THAT KNOB, WE'RE GONERS!

BOYS!

LET ME OUTA HERE!



WHILE THE CROOKS FLEE IN CONFUSION, THE CRIME FIGHTERS WORK SWIFTLY TO FREE THEMSELVES!

RUN! HE'LL STEAM US LIKE CLAMS!

THIS IS OUR ONLY CHANCE, ROBIN! BUT IF WE DON'T HURRY, WE'LL BE SCALDED TO DEATH!

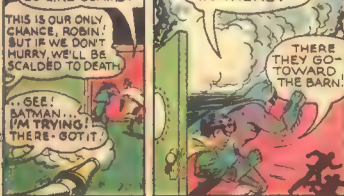
...GEE! BATMAN... I'M TRYING! THERE-GOT IT!



BURSTING OUT OF THEIR BONDS, THE FIGHTING FURIES RACE AFTER THE FLEEING CROOKS!

PHWEW! IT WAS GETTING STUFFY IN THERE!

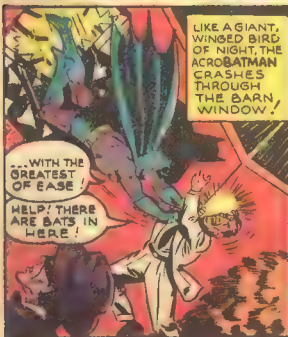
THERE THEY GO-TOWARD THE BARN!



LIKE A GIANT, WINGED BIRD OF NIGHT, THE ACROBATMAN CRASHES THROUGH THE BARN WINDOW!

...WITH THE GREATEST OF EASE!

HELP! THERE ARE BATS IN HERE!

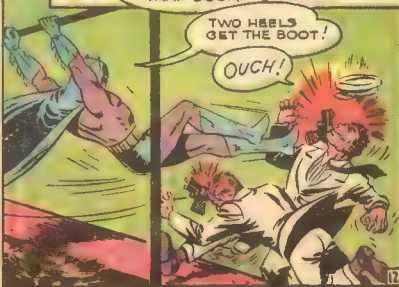


THE DOOR'S LOCKED TIGHT! OHO! BETTER HURRY! THEY'RE NOT LOOKING FOR A NEEDLE IN THAT HAY... MUST BE A TRAP DOOR!



TWO HEELS GET THE BOOT!

OUCH!



AS THE MIGHTY BATMAN FIGHTS WITH THE STRENGTH OF MANY...

HEAVE HO!
AWAY!
WE GO!

UGH!
GLUG!

AS DAYLIGHT GROWS STRONGER, THE UNEVEN FIGHT IS FINISHED!

LEAVE THOSE CHAPS ON ICE TILL THE POLICE GET HERE! WINTHROP AND THE GEMS COME ALONG WITH US AS A PRESENT FOR THE COMMISSIONER!

(PUFF)
(PUFF)
THESE CROOKS
MUST CARRY
LEAD
WEIGHTS
ON 'EM!

LATER... IN POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON'S OFFICE...

IMAGINE A MAN LIKE WINTHROP IN A CRIME RACKET! WHO'D SUSPECT HIM - OR THE MILKMEN!

THAT'S WHY IT WAS SUCH A NEAT SET-UP! WINTHROP PROBABLY BOUGHT THE SMALL DAIRY UNDER AN ASSUMED NAME, AND IF ANYONE FOUND OUT IT WAS HIS - WHY, HE COULD SAY IT WAS A HOESY!

I JUST CHECKED OVER WINTHROP'S BOOKS FOR THE MILK COMPANY, THERE'S A LARGE FUND SHORTAGE HERE!

THAT EXPLAINS A LOT! HE MUST HAVE GAMBLERD WITH THE COMPANY'S MONEY - AND HAD TO MAKE GOOD! HE SPENT EVERY CENT HE HAD ON COLLECTING JEWELS!

BACK IN THE WAYNE MANSION...

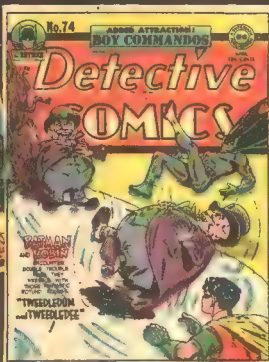
I SEE BY THE PAPERS THAT BATMAN AND ROBIN CAUGHT THOSE "EARLY BIRD" CROOKS!

IT'S SORT OF IRONICAL, BRUCE! I BET DRINKING THIS STUFF IS WHAT MADE BATMAN AND ROBIN STRONG ENOUGH TO FIGHT THOSE MILKMEN ROBBERS! MMM... SURE IS GOOD.

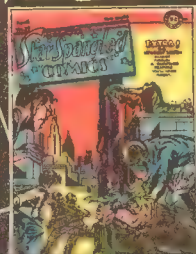
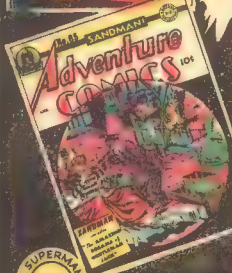
THE
END

THE BIG EIGHT!

Tops in monthly comic magazines!



↑ Featuring ↑
BATMAN
and ROBIN



NOW ON SALE EVERYWHERE!



FANTASTIC FACTS



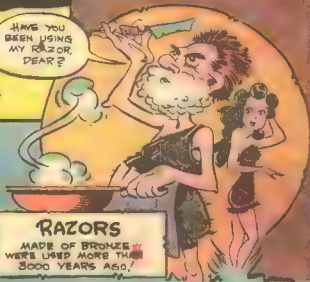
GHOST SHIP!

THE "MARY CELESTE" SET SAIL FROM NEW YORK SOUND FOR GENOA IN NOV. 1872 ---- ON DEC. 5, A BRITISH SHIP SIGHTED HER OFF HER COURSE ---- THE BRITISH CAPTAIN BOARDED HER AND FOUND EVERYTHING IN PERFECT CONDITION BUT NOT A SINGLE PERSON ABOARD! HER LOG SHOWED NO HINT OF TRAGEDY -- CLOTHES WERE HUNG UP TO DRY AND MEALS WERE PARTLY FINISHED! TO THIS DAY NOBODY KNOWS WHAT HAPPENED TO THE CREW OF THE "MARY CELESTE".

THE PARIS POLICE DESK ONCE KEPT A FORCE OF RAT-CATCHING CATS WHICH WERE RENTED OUT FOR A SMALL FEE!



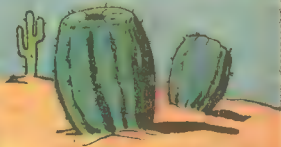
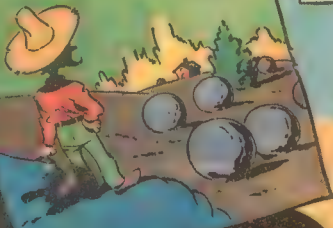
HAVE YOU BEEN USING MY RAZOR, DEAR?



RAZORS

MADE OF BRONZE WERE USED MORE THAN 3000 YEARS AGO!

GIGANTIC CANNON BALLS WERE FASHIONED BY PATHER TIME TOGETHER WITH HIS ASSOCIATES THE WIND AND THE RAIN -- LOCATED NEAR THE TOWN OF MINNEAPOLIS, KANSAS.



THE "BARREL CACTUS" OF ARIZONA IS THE CAMEL OF THE PLANT WORLD -- IT STORES UP ENOUGH WATER FROM A RAIN TO LAST FOR MONTHS OR EVEN YEARS!

BATMAN

WITH
ROBIN

-THE BOY WONDER-



IT'S ABOUT TIME SOMEONE PAID SOME ATTENTION TO ME--THE PAPER ON WHICH THIS BATMAN MAGAZINE IS PRINTED! AND IF YOU CAN'T SEE ANYTHING EXCITING ABOUT A SHEET OF NEWSPRINT THAT WOULDN'T RATE A SECOND LOOK EXCEPT FOR THE WORDS AND PICTURES -- WHY THAT JUST PROVES YOU HAVEN'T BEEN AROUND! EVER SINCE I WAS A TALL YOUNG SPRUCE TREE IN THE BIG WOODS I'VE SEEN THINGS THAT WOULD CURL YOUR WHISKERS. IF ANY--AND THEN, I SAW THE BATTLING BATMAN AND THE RECKLESS ROBIN PUNCH THEIR WAY RIGHT ALONG WITH ME FROM LOGGING CAMP TO PULP MILL TO THE THUNDERING PRESS ROOM! LIFE, DEATH, THRILLS, CHILLS-- YOU'LL LEARN SOMETHING ABOUT ALL OF THEM AS YOU TURN THE PAGES AND READ -- "THE ADVENTURES OF THE BRANDED TREE!"



MARK WELL THIS TREE
WITH THE DAGGER-
SHAPED SCAR CUT
DEEP IN THE LIVING
WOOD...

... FOR HERE BEGINS A DEADLY NORTH
WOODS DRAMA OF RAZOR-EDGED WITS
AND STEEL-HARD WEAPONS!

AY WONDER WHAT
THIS DAGGER MARK
BANE MEAN.
SCOTTY?

FOOSH, YONSON-- I
DINNA DOOBT IT
MEANS NAETHIN' AT
ALL! SOME DAFT
HUNTSMAN HACKED
IT HAVIN' NA
BETTER WOR-
R-R-RK!

AH, WEEL-- 'T'WILL MAKE GOOD PULP
PAPER AT THE MILL, FOR A' IT'S
UGLY CAR-R-R-VIN'!

AY BANE GLAD HUNTING
SEASON OVER! WOODS 'OT
BANE SAFE FOR LUMBER-
YACKS WHEN CITY FALLERS
YUMP AROUND SHOOT-
ING EVERYTH'ING
IN SIGHT!

BUT OLAF YONSON HAS SPOKEN
TOO SOON-- FOR A CERTAIN BREED
OF 'CITY FALLERS' DOES NOT RECOG-
NIZE ANY CLOSED SEASON ON ITS
ILICIT HUNTING EXPEDITIONS...

WHY'D THEY HAFTA PICK THAT TREE
OUT OF THE WHOLE FOREST? YA DON'T
THINK THEY'RE WISE, DO YA, BULL?

A MUFFLED POP-- AND A
STEEL-JACKETED SLUG
BORES INTO A MAN'S
DEFENSELESS BACK!

IT'S RIGHT CLOSE BY... KEEP YOUR
EYES SKINNED FOR THE SIGN OF THE
DAGGER!
LISTEN-- I HEAR
SOMEBODY CHOPPIN'!

SHUT UP AND GET READY
TO PLUG 'EM WIT' DAT SILENCED
RIFLE! WE'LL DO OUR TINKIN'
AFTER WE'VE FINISHED DIS
JOB!

AAAA-A-A-A...

EH?
MON, WHAT
AIDS YE?

REACH FOR DA
SKY, OR YA'LL
GET A TASTE
O' DA GAME!

WHY, YE MUR-R-R-RDERIN' SONS
O' SATAN-- YELL NA HAE THE
SATISFACTION O' SEEN THE PRIDE
O' GLEN CAMERON GROVEL APORE
YEZ COWARDLY WEAPONS!

I'LL BREAK YE WITH BARE FISTS-- AAA-A-A-A...

OKAY-- YA'RE ASKIN' FOR IT!

WHY DIDN'T YA LET ME
USE THIS? THEY'LL HEAR
THAT SHOT AT THE
LOGGIN' CAMP!

NOT FAR AWAY, TWO OTHER 'CITY FALLERS' HAVE
INVADDED THE BIG WOODS IN SEARCH OF
NOTHING MORE SNIFFER THAN RELAXATION --



A LOT OF HELP
YOU ARE!

PLAY HIM
EASY! DON'T LET
HIM BREAK
YOUR TACKLE!

-- BRUCE WAYNE, WEALTHY SPORTSMAN, AND
HIS YOUNG WARD, DICK GRAYSON!

OUTER GARMENTS FLUNG ASIDE, THE PAIR
BECOMES THE FAMOUS CRIME CRUSHING TEAM
OF BATMAN AND ROBIN!



I CAME UP HERE TO FISH.
ROBIN-- AND I'M NOT
GOING TO MISS ANY
CHANCES!

I STILL CAN'T
FIGURE OUT
WHY YOU IN-
SIST ON DRAG-
GING THESE
RODS
ALONG!

PRETTY,
EH?...
LISTEN!



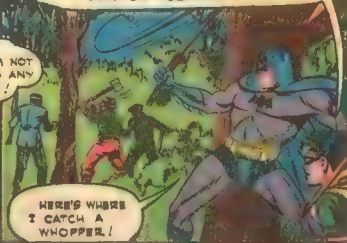
A SHOT!
SOME
HUNTER
MUST BE
STRETCHING
THE
SEASON!

CRACK!

HUNTER, NOTHING!
THAT WAS A .45
CALIBER PISTOL --
AND A PISTOL SHOT
USUALLY MEANS
TROUBLE!

AND TROUBLE
MEANS ACTION
FOR US!

LOOK -- CITY GANGSTERS! AND THERE
ARE TWO LUMBERJACKS ON THE GROUND,
DEAD OR WOUNDED!



HERE'S WHERE
I CATCH A
WHOPPER!

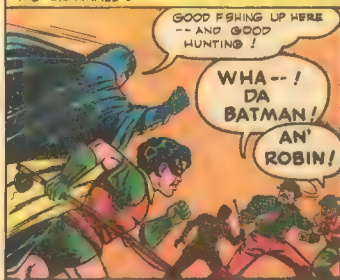
A SINGING REEL
PAYS OUT A
TWIN SILKEN LINE
AND...



YIPE! I'M
SHOT!

WHAT'S
HAPPENIN'?

BEFORE THE SHOCK OF THE SURPRISE WAS WORN
OFF, TWIN FIGURES OF FIGHTING FURY CHARGE
THE CRIMINALS!



GOOD FISHING UP HERE
-- AND GOOD
HUNTING!

WHA --!
DA
BATMAN!
AN'
ROBIN!

WELL, WELL -- IF IT ISN'T A FELLOW-CITIZEN
OF GOTHAM CITY -- **BULL BRETON!**

I WISH I WAS
SOMEBODY ELSE!

TOO BAD
I DIDN'T WEAR
MY
HOBNAILED
BOOTS!

A STORM OF SNARLING SLUGS DRIVES THE
DYNAMIC DUO TO COVER...

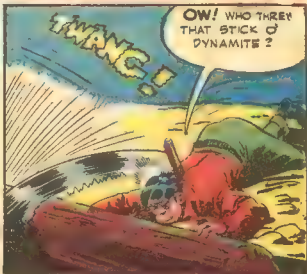
IF I GET THE
BATMAN, I'M
GONNA HAVE HIM
STUFFED FOR A
TROPHY!

THIS WILL BE
GOOD-IF IT
WORKS!



HAW,
HAW!
MISSED
ME!

A PERFECT
CAST--BUT I'D
HATE TO HAVE TO
EAT...WHAT'S
CAUGHT!



OW! WHO THREW
THAT STICK O'
DYNAMITE?



WE GOTTA
BEAT IT!

AFTER
THEM,
ROBIN!

YA'RE
TELLIN'
ME!

A LOAD OF SAWN LOGS, LEFT BY WORK-
MEN AT THE SOUND OF THE DINNER
BELL, BLOCKS THE TRAIL...

MAKE IT FAST, YOUSE GUYS!
I GOT AN IDEA HOW TO STOP
THE BATMAN AND ROBIN!

I HOPE YA
AIN'T
KIDDIN'!



YOU'D SAVE YOURSELVES
A LOT OF TROUBLE BY
GIVING UP NOW, BULL!

I'D
SAVE
TROUBLE,
ALL
RIGHT--



---TROUBLE FOR YOU!

MINUTES LATER...

ROBIN! SAY SOMETHING! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, FELLA?

HUH?... HANG ONTO MY HEAD, BATMAN--- IT WON'T STOP SPINNING!



LATER, WHEN FIRST AID HAD BEEN ADMINISTERED TO THE ONE LIVING VICTIM OF THE COWARDLY SHOOTING...

THAT'LL HAVE TO DO TILL WE CAN GET YOU TO A DOCTOR, SCOTTY!

THEY GOT AWAY AND OLAF IS DEAD! HAVEN'T YOU ANY IDEA WHAT THEY WERE AFTER?

WELL, YE MIGHT TAKE A LOOK AT THOT TREE WE WERE WOR-R-KIN' ON... IT WAS MARKED W' A DAGGER, YE KEN!



BUT THE DAGGER-BRANDED TREE HAD ALREADY STARTED IT'S JOURNEY TO THE MILL...

OUI, M'SIEU BATMAN-- PISSE AN' I SEE ZE MARK BUT WE SINK NOZZING OF, EET!



WE BEENISH CUTTING DOWN ZE TREE, AN' SAW BET UP, AN' SEND BET DOWN TO ZE RIVER!

THEN WE'D BETTER LOOK IN THE RIVER!

YOU WOULD NOT FIND IT BEEN A LIFETIME, M'SIEU! ZERE ARE T'OUSAN'S OF LOGS, EACH EXACTLY LIKE ZE OZZER!

BATMAN, IT LOOKS AS IF WE'RE STUCK IN A LOG JAM!



AT THAT VERY MOMENT...

ALL WE CAN DO IS TO TRY TO TRACK DOWN BULL AND HIS MOB!



LOG JAM IS RIGHT! IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO TURN OVER EVERY STICK IN THAT MESS LOOKING FOR A DAGGER CARVING!

ANYWAY, THESE FISH DIDN'T GET AWAY-- AND THEY TASTE TWICE AS GOOD NOW THAT WE'VE WORKED UP AN APPETITE!

DO THEY?... I'VE BEEN SO BUSY, TRYING TO THINK WHY GANGSTERS SHOULD BE INTERESTED IN ONE PARTICULAR TREE OUT OF A MILLION. I HAVEN'T NOTICED!



WHAT STRANGE SECRET, SYMBOLIZED BY THIS SINISTER SIGN OF THE DAGGER HAS LURED DESPERATE MEN FROM THEIR UNDERWORLD HAUNTS TO COMMIT MURDER IN THE DEEP WOODS? LET'S SEE IF WE CAN FIND A CLUE IN THE GRIM EVENTS YET TO COME...



THAT NIGHT, VIOLENCE FLARES IN A NEARBY TOWN...

SURE I WORK ON THE LOSS AT THE PAPER MILL! WHY? ...OOOoo...

YA MEAN YA USED TO WORK THERE!

COME ON-- WE GOTTA KNOCK A COUPLE MORE OFFPA DA PAYROLL!



THE FOLLOWING MORNING...

EMPLOYMENT OFFICE

YOU'RE ALL HIRED! THREE OF OUR LOG HANDLERS MET WITH MYSTERIOUS ACCIDENTS LAST NIGHT AND ARE LAID OFF!

AIN'T THAT A COINCIDENCE?



ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS MAKE SURE THE LOSS KEEP GOING UP THAT BELT INTO THE MILL!

WOTTA BREAK! WE CAN'T MISS DA LOG WE'RE AFTER!

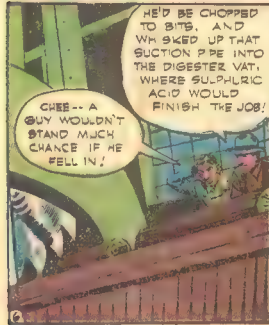


YOUR JOB IS TO WATCH THE LOSS AS THEY MOVE TOWARD THE CHOPPER, AND TAKE OUT THE ONES WITH KNOTS OR ROTTED PLACES, CUT THE IT SOUNDS 'SPOILED PLACES OUT FASCINATIN'! WITH THIS SAW AND PUT THE LOSS BACK!



HE'D BE CHOPPED TO BITS, AND WH SKED UP THAT SUCTION PPE INTO THE DIGESTER VAT, WHERE SULPHURIC ACID WOULD FINISH THE JOB!

CHEE-- A GUY WOULDN'T STAND MUCH CHANCE IF HE FELL IN!



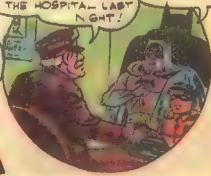
FROM THE DIGESTER, THE SOLUTION GOES THROUGH BLEACHING AND TINTING VATS AND INTO THE PAPER MACHINES! IT COMES OUT OF THE ROLLERS AT THE END AS FINISHED PAPER!

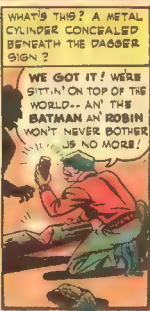
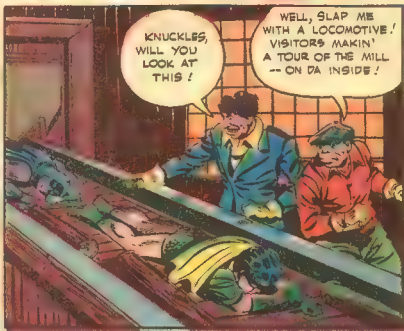


MEANWHILE, AT THE LOCAL POLICE STATION...

NO, I AIN'T SEEN NO SUSPICIOUS CHARACTERS-- BUT SOMEBODY BEAT UP THREE O' THE PAPER MILL WORKERS AN' SENT 'EM TO THE HOSPITAL-- LAST NIGHT!

WHMM--THAT MEANS THE PAPER MILL WILL HAVE TO HIRE THREE NEW MEN! I GET THE PICTURE!





FLASHING, SPIN-
NING KNIVES
SNARL HUNGRI-
LY AS THE HELPLESS
CRIME FIGHTERS
ARE BORNE TOWARD
A TERRIBLE FATE...

OH-H-H-H
...WHAT
A HEADACHE!
... GOT
TO
SLEEP!

NO CHANCE OF REACHING HIM IN
TIME... BUT IF I CAN BLOCK THE
OPENING TO THE CHOPPER WITHOUT
SMASHING HIS SKULL...

WAKE UP, BATMAN! SPLIT
SECONDS CAN MEAN THE
DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LIFE
AND DEATH!

WHA---/
A LOG CONVEYOR IN
A PULP MILL!
.... ROBIN!

SUPPLE SINEWS ARE TAXED
TO THE UTMOST AS THE
DARK-CLAD WARRIOR
HURLES LOGS FASTER THAN
THE WHIRLING TEETH OF
STEEL CAN CHEW THEM?!

IF EVER A LOG JAM WAS
NEEDED, NOW'S THE
TIME!

WH-WHAT'S
HAPPENING?
....

OH, OH--
DA **BATMAN**
DON'T LIKE THE
IDEA O' GOIN'
THROUGH DA MILL!

COME ON,
FELLA--
WE'VE GOT
A LITTLE
CHORE TO
DO!

DIS IS YOUR
FAULT! YA
SHOULDA HAD SENSE
ENOUGH TA GIVE 'EM
AN EXTRA WHACK
AS DEY WENT BY!--
GIMME DAT CYLINDER!

GREAT SCOTT--
IT ALMOST
HAD ME!

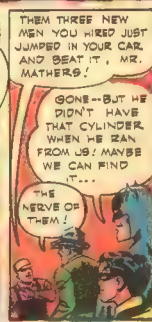
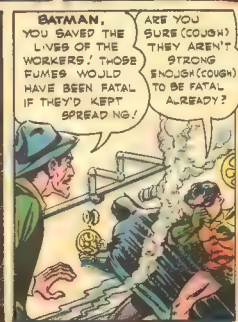
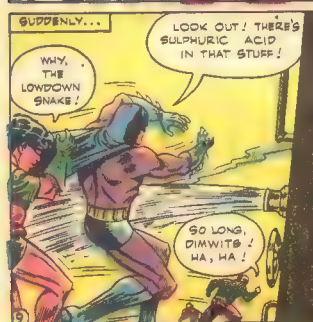
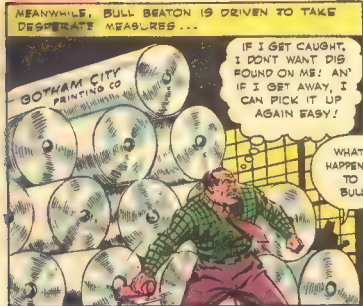
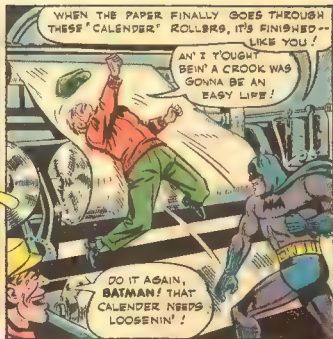
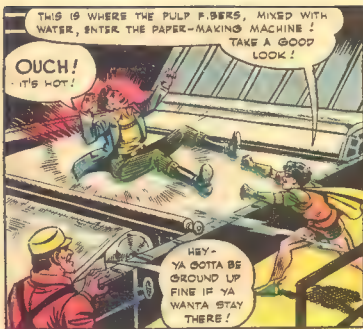
YOU SKUNKS ARE GOING
THROUGH THE MILL
THIS TIME -- ON A
PERSONALLY CON-
DUCTED TOUR!

AND IF WE
MISS
ANYTHING, WE'LL
DO IT TWICE!

GET 'EM
BEFORE
THEY GET
US!

THIS S THE WAY THEY
TRIM THE LOGS BEFORE
THEY TURN THEM INTO
PULP! GET IT?

YOW



BUT A CAREFUL SEARCH FAILS TO REVEAL EITHER THE MYSTERIOUS CYLINDER OR THE FUGITIVE CRIMINALS --- AND TWO DAYS LATER ...

I THOUGHT THAT FISHING TRIP WOULD DO YOU GOOD, **BRUCE** -- BUT YOU'VE BEEN NERVOUS AS A CAT EVER SINCE WE GOT BACK!

I'LL GIVE YOU THREE GUESSES WHY!

I KNOW... IT BURNS ME UP, LOSING THOSE KILLERS TWICE IN A ROW AND NOT BEING ABLE TO FIND THAT CYLINDER THEY LEFT BEHIND!

THEY DIDN'T TAKE IT WITH THEM -- BUT I'M NOT SO SURE THEY LEFT IT UP THERE EITHER! I THINK BULL PUT SOMETHING EXTRA CLEVER OVER ON US!

PERKINS PAPER CO

NEWSPRINT FROM THE PERKINS MILL! MAYBE IT'S THE SAME WE SAW BEING MADE!

HUH?... I WONDER...?

MIDNIGHT-- AND THE NIGHT WATCHMAN AT THE PRINTING PLANT HAS UNEXPECTED VISITORS...

TAKE US TA DA PRESS-ROOM, SEE? OR D'YA WANT SOMEBODY TA TAKE YA TA A CEMETERY?

D-DON'T SHOOT! I'LL T-TAKE YOU ANYWHERE YOU SAY!

AH-- HERE WE ARE! DA SMARTEST TRICK O' DA YEAR, IF I DO SAY IT MESELF!

OKAY, POP-- TAKE A REST!

YOU'RE A GENIUS, BULL!

IT AIN'T HERE!

NOT HERE, EITHER... GOSH -- WHAT IF IT GOT LOST?

KEEP YER SHIRTS ON!

A FORTUNE! FROM NOW ON, WE'RE ALL BIG SHOTS!

I'M GONNA BUY A TICKET TO SOMEPLACE WHERE DA **BATMAN** WON'T NEVER CATCH UP WIT' ME!

I'M GONNA BUY ME A YACHT!

A GOOD IDEA, SQUIDGE -- BUT
A TRIPLE LATE!

NOW LET'S GO OUT AN'
CELEBRATE OUR--
HUH? ... DAT
SHADDER...

LIKE A GREAT BIRD OF PREY A MANTLED
FIGURE SWOOPS -- THE BATMAN!

NO! NO!
IT CAN'T
BE
TRUE!

LOOKS
LIKE I'M
JUST IN
TIME!

AM I GOIN' CRAZY
-- OR DOES IT
LOOK LIKE A BAT?

BUT IT IS TRUE,
MY FINE-
FEATHERED
FELONS!

A FEW
OUNCES
OF LEAD
WILL TIP
THE BALANCE
ONE WAY!

IF I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN
HOW I USED TO BIRL
LOSS, MAYBE I CAN
BREAK THIS UP!

WHAT YA
DUCKIN' FOR,
BATMAN? YA
SCARED O' BULLETS?

ONLY WHEN
BETTER MARKSMEN
THAN YOU
SHOOT THEM!

HEY, KID -- WATCH
WHERE YOU'RE GOIN'!
YOU'LL HURT SOMEBODY!

I'M JUST
PLAYIN'
STEAM-
ROLLER!

NICE
WORK,
ROBIN!

OOPS --
SLIPS!

YOU TWO BACK FOR MORE?
THIS'LL LAST YOU
QUITE A WHILE!

OUCH! YA
DONE THAT
ON PURPOSE!



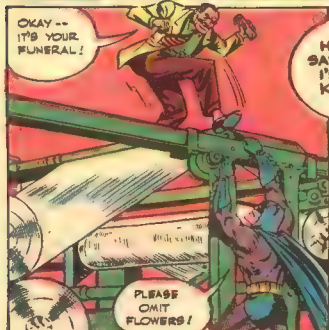
I'LL
TAKE
THAT!

NOT
WHILE
I'M
CON-
SCIOUS!

COMPLICATED MACHINERY RUMBLES INTO
ACTION AS THE GANG BOSS THROWS THE START-
ING SWITCH OF THE HUGE PRINTING PRESS ...

YOU'RE GONNA GET TANGLED
UP WITH A MESS O' HIGH-
SPEED ROLLERS IF YA DON'T
LOOK OUT!

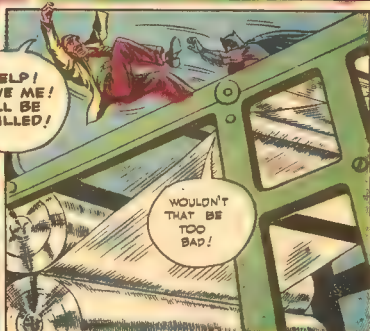
I'LL TAKE
THE CHANCE
IF
YOU WILL!



OKAY --
IT'S YOUR
FUNERAL!

HELP!
SAVE ME!
I'LL BE
KILLED!

PLEASE
OMIT
FLOWERS!



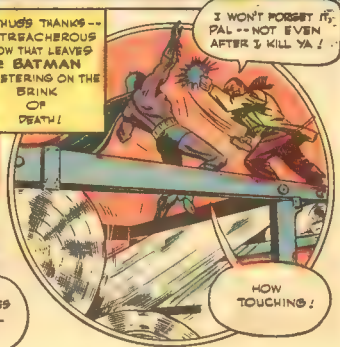
WOULDN'T
THAT BE
TOO
BAD!



YA SAVED
ME!

I HOPE
NOBODY GIVES
ME A MEDAL
FOR IT!

A THUGS THANKS --
A TREACHEROUS
BLOW THAT LEAVES
THE BATMAN
TESTERING ON THE
BRINK
OF
DEATH!



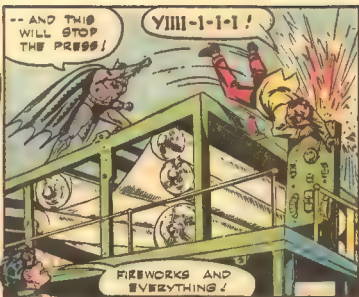
I WON'T FORGET IT,
PAL -- NOT EVEN
AFTER I KILL YA!

HOW
TOUCHING!



THIS ONE WILL STOP YOU--

HUH?--SOMETHING'S WRONG!



YIII-I-I-I!

-- AND THIS WILL STOP THE PRESS!

FIREWORKS AND EVERYTHING!



I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND!

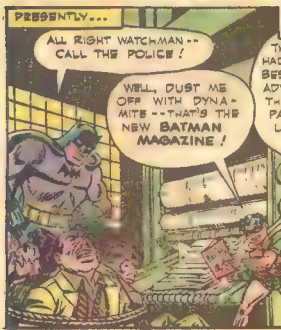
TAKE IT! NOTTIN' 'S WORTH WHAT I'VE BEEN GOIN' THROUGH!

INDUSTRIAL DIAMONDS, FOR POINTING TOOLS! THESE MUST BE THE ONES STOLEN IN THAT EXPRESS ROBBERY UP NORTH A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO!

RIGHT! ME AN' DA BOYS SWIPED 'EM--BUT DA COPPER CHASED US TROUGH DA WOODS, AN' WE HID DA SWAG IN DAT TREE SO IT WOULDN'T BE ON US IF WE WAS CAUGHT!

BUT LUCK WAS AGAINST US WHEN WE WENT BACK FOR 'EM! OBY WAS JUST STARTIN' TA CUT DOWN DA TREE FOR PAPER--AN' DEN YOUSE HAD TA SHOW UP!

DIAMONDS LIKE THESE ARE NEEDED IN AMERICA'S WAR EFFORT! WHEN A JUDGE FINDS OUT YOU'RE A TRAITOR, A THIEF AND MURDERER, HE'LL RETIRE YOU PERMANENTLY!

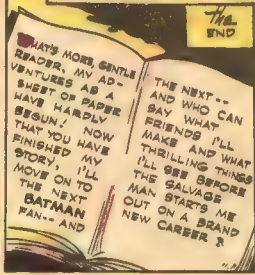


ALL RIGHT WATCHMAN-- CALL THE POLICE!

WELL, DUST ME OFF WITH DYNAMITE--THAT'S THE NEW BATMAN MAGAZINE!

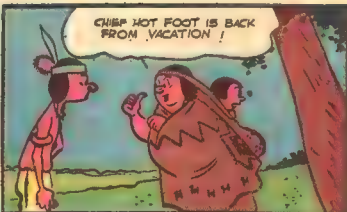
THIS IS ONE ISSUE WE HAD PLENTY TO DO WITH! BESIDES FURNISHING THE ADVENTURE, WE WATCHED THE TREES CUT AND THE PAPER MADE AND DELIVERED--AND WERE THE FIRST READERS!

DON'T FORGET, BULL BEETON-- HE STARTED EVERYTHING, INCLUDING THE PRESS!



WHAT'S MORE, GENTLE READER, MY ADVENTURES AS A SHEET OF PAPER HAVE HARDLY BEGUN! NOW THAT YOU HAVE FINISHED MY STORY, I'LL MOVE ON TO THE NEXT BATMAN FAN-- AND

THE NEXT-- AND WHO CAN SAY WHAT FRIENDS I'LL MAKE AND WHAT THRILLING THINGS I'LL SEE BEFORE THE SALVAGE MAN STARTS ME OUT ON A BRAND NEW CAREER?



WORLD'S FINEST VALUE!

SUPERMAN! BATMAN! BOY COMMANDOS!

---YES, GENERAL, IT'S THE **ONLY** MAGAZINE CONTAINING **ALL THREE** OF THOSE **TOP** FEATURES!

CORRECT, ADMIRAL! AND LOTS OF **OTHER** GREAT ACTION STORIES IN THOSE **96 PAGES!** YESSIR, IT'S TOO GOOD TO MISS!!



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MOTIVE

by Eric Carter

IT was all figured out. Not a loophole, Spencer told himself exultantly. Just as he did every weekend, Junius would come up here to Spencer's lodge. But this weekend, because Junius, only three hours before, had found out about the shortages in the working capital, wouldn't be pleasure bent.

No, Spencer avowed, he'd be bent for death.

And why not? If Junius' lips were sealed, he, Spencer, would take over the company. The books could be changed after the funeral, and nobody would ever know.

A quarter of a million dollar theft! Spencer smiled, recalling the agitation earlier in the day when Junius had discovered the depredation. The fool—who hadn't he been content in handling his end of the business? Did he have to snoop into the books?

Spencer's lips tautened. It was a good thing he had managed to convince Junius to keep quiet, and come out as usual. That story about knowing something was wrong, too, had allayed Junius' fears. He had agreed to come out as usual, for the weekend. He did not know that Death, and not Spencer, would be his host.

Wrapped now in the protective darkness of his parked car, Spencer looked down at the illuminated dial on his wrist watch. A quarter of nine. In a few moments, it would be time to start, to establish the alibi.

Spencer smile craftily. It had been a good idea to be seen in a neighboring town, making a purchase for his laboratory. After that, a breath-taking ride to make time to this spot. He had cut ten minutes off the normal time, had been

willing to gamble against a cop tailing him.

And he had won. Luck was riding with him, Spencer told himself. Promptly at nine o'clock, Junius would ascend the long stone steps to the house. He would use the pocket flashlight he always insisted, grumpily, on shining to ascend the treacherous steps. Junius had always claimed the steps were inadequately lighted. "It's a wonder the law doesn't make you do something about your lights, Spencer."

The law! Sheriff Tate? Once more, Spencer smiled. That bumpkin wouldn't even realize that his friendship with Spencer would tend to make the latter's alibi the more plausible.

Spencer opened the window of his warmly-heated car, shivered as a blast of air struck him. Outside it was bitterly cold, the third day of the cold snap. Suddenly, Spencer went rigid as a piercing whistle reached his ears. It was the Moran tug on its homeward journey. It always reached the drawbridge at this time and, ten minutes later, was in its slip. Moran prided himself on keeping a schedule as rigid and inflexible as a railroad's.

Unmindful of the cold now, Spencer left the window open, looked at his watch. Another whistle reached his ear. That would be the tug safely through the drawbridge—and now Spencer could start back because he could say that he saw the tug in its slip at its regular time.

And when Spencer reached the house, he would find Junius dead!

Oh, it was ingenious, all right. Only a man like Spencer could have thought of it. Now, driving furiously along, he wondered

how he had. Forgetting to return the fountain pen he had taken from Junius' desk a few days ago had been another stroke of luck. The pen was now lying on one of the steps leading to the house. Junius' flash couldn't help picking it out, and Junius would bend down, pick it up, and there would be a terrific explosion.

Junius never would know that a wire ran from the pen to high explosives hidden behind the house entrance. And no one would be able to figure it out, because the whole town knew that Junius and Spencer were dealers in high explosives. Maybe, some might say, poor Mr. Junius was carrying a sample with him.

As simple as that! Spencer looked at his speedometer, slowed down the car. It was still a five minute drive to the house, and the time was one minute to nine. Despite his cold-blooded planning, Spencer felt a shiver run through him as the watch hand stole to nine.

And then he heard it. A single, powerful explosion, and far ahead a bright light illuminated the sky!

A half hour later, after having viewed the wreckage of his house, Spencer sat in Sheriff Tate's office, his head bowed, his face as haggard as he could make it. "It's horrible, horrible," he said huskily. "Poor Junius. He was a good friend as well as a fine partner." He turned reddened eyes to the angular-jawed Tate. "I—I—might have been there myself, except that I had to go into town to make some purchases."

"Here, here, Mr. Spencer," Tate said sympathetically, "you can't blame yourself. And I know how you feel. But it's a good thing for us you were there to tell us who that poor, blown-to-bits unfortunate was." He shook his head. "Mr. Junius was a fine man, an obliging fellow, too. I'm going to miss seeing him every weekend. We sure got along fine."

Through half-closed eyes, Spencer studied Tate's homely face. "Sure," he thought, "you

both got along fine because you both had the same simple kind of mind. Neither of you would suspect me. Not you fools—you trust everyone." Aloud, he said: "We'll both miss him, Sheriff, very much."

Tate nodded slowly, drummed on the desk with long, slender fingers. Something glinted from between his thumb and forefinger and as he extracted it, a puzzled frown came over his face. It was a small piece of metal, and he had been playing with it all the way back to the office. "What I can't understand," he said, "is why Mr. Junius should be packing explosives that dangerous around. He always seemed level-headed to me." He thrust the piece of metal at Spencer, and said: "I could have identified him by this, I guess, if you hadn't come along."

His eyes watched Spencer as the latter looked curiously at the metal.

But Spencer suppressed a start as he recognized the object. The clip from a fountain pen! With an effort he controlled himself, and his eyes and voice were steady as he said to the Sheriff: "What is it?"

Tate didn't answer. He seemed lost in thought. Then, suddenly, he said: "You say you didn't see Mr. Junius this week? You weren't in the office?"

"That's right," Spencer said, his eyes narrowing. No one had seen him when he had visited Junius at the plant. It had been night and he had stopped off after the theatre, used the private entrance. Junius had asked him to drop in for a minor consultation.

Now, he studied Tate covertly. What was this yokel driving at? He'd better put him right on that alibi.

"No, Sheriff," he said. "I haven't seen him. You know how cold it has been, too cold for going out. I do a lot of our work here. Tonight would have been our first meeting in a week." Glibly he went on, told of being in town, of driving back. "As a matter of fact," he said, "I saw the Moran tug going into

its slip at the time of the explosion." He smiled to himself as he saw the furrows leave the Sheriff's forehead. And he knew that he had an air-tight alibi, because the Sheriff and everyone else was well aware of the time the tug always berthed.

Spencer sighed. "Poor Junius," he said. His fingers touched the pen clip. "I'd like to keep this, Sheriff," he said, "if you don't mind. To remember Junius by."

"It won't help," the Sheriff said. "That clip belongs to me!"

"To you?" Spencer's facial muscles tightened. What was this fellow talking about? And why were the Sheriff's eyes suddenly hostile? Why was he getting to his feet? What had slipped? Spencer tried to force a smile. "You're joking," he said lamely. Then his eyes almost popped from their sockets as he saw the Sheriff's gun, heard the words of condemnation.

"No, Spencer, I'm not fooling. This is my pen and Mr. Junius took it into the city last week to have it repaired for me. He said he expected you, and would ask you to bring it out."

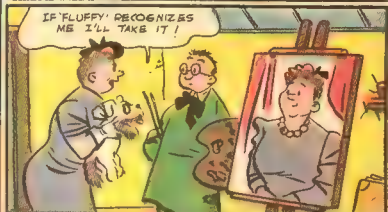
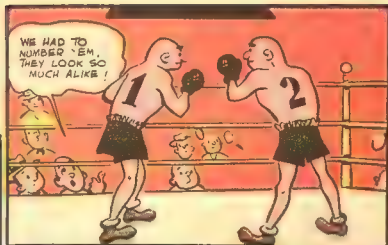
Sheriff Tate's hand darted out, a manacle snapped on the struggling Spencer's wrist as the county law officer forced the panting wild-eyed man into a chair.

"I don't know what this pen's got to do with it," the Sheriff said slowly. "But I aim to find out." His usually humorous eyes were hard and cold. "Seems to me you went to a lot of trouble to get an alibi that didn't come off, Spencer."

Spencer's chest heaved. "You can't prove a thing," he cried. "You can't prove a thing. You're mad!"

"Mebbe," the Sheriff said. "But you can't prove you saw the Moran tug getting into its berth tonight, Spencer. Because it's still on the other side of the drawbridge and can't get through because the cold weather froze up the mechanism tonight! And mebbe tomorrow you and me are going to look into Junius' and Spencer's business and mebbe find a motive for murder!"

LAFFS



FAST AS A BULLET!

THAT'S THE SORT OF HIGH-SPEED ADVENTURE YOU CAN COUNT ON FINDING EVERY MONTH IN THESE TWO SWELL MAGAZINES!

BROTHER--- I KNOW EVERY WORD OF THAT TO BE TRUE!



CLANCY

THE COP

HEART
BOOKS

THIS HEADACHE
IS KILLING
ME!

-AN OLD DESERTED HOUSE.
MAYBE THE QUIETNESS INSIDE
WILL HELP MY HEADACHE!

GOSH, IT'S DARK
MAYBE THE PLACE IS
HAUNTED!!

I'D HATE TO MEET
UP WITH A GHOST!

CLONK

YEOW

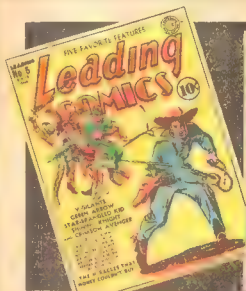
SOMEONE HIT ME!
LET ME OUTA
HERE!

GEE - IN ALL THE
EXCITEMENT MY HEADACHE
DISAPPEARED
THAT'S SWELL!!

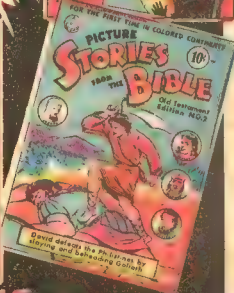
IF IT WORKED ON ME
IT OUGHT TO WORK ON
OTHER PEOPLE!

HEADACHE
CURE
10¢

CLANCY THE COP



BE SURE
TO GET THESE
TOP FAVORITES
FOR THE BEST IN
COMICS!



NOW ON SALE
EVERYWHERE!



BATMAN

WITH
ROBIN

-THE BOY WONDER-

TWO'S A PERFECT FIGHTING TEAM, AND THREE'S A CROWD IN THE CASE OF THE BATMAN AND ROBIN -- AND WHAT A CROWD, WHEN THE THIRD IS THE SINGULAR GENTLEMAN YOU ARE ABOUT TO MEET! LANDING IN THE MIDST OF VIOLENCE AFTER A VIOLENT CROSSING OF MANY OCEANS, NONCHALANTLY ATTRACTING VIOLENCE WHEREVER HE MOVES, THIS AMAZING FELLOW GIVES AMERICA'S ACE CRIME-SMASHERS THE MOST VIOLENT SURPRISE OF THEIR LIVES -- AND MAKES THEM LIKE HIM FOR IT! YOU HAVE NEVER BEFORE ENCOUNTERED ANYONE QUITE LIKE HIM, BUT YOU'LL BE EAGER TO SEE HIM AGAIN!

AND NOW SIT TIGHT, FOR -

"HERE COMES ALFRED!"

BOB
KANE



NIGHT--AND A SMALL PASSENGER VESSEL ENDS A PERILOUS WAR-TIME CROSSING OF THE ATLANTIC AT A GOTHAM CITY PIER...

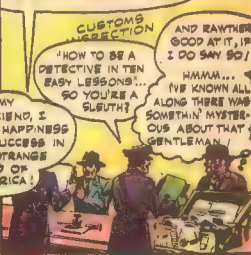


TWO SHIPBOARD ACQUAINTANCES SAY GOODBYE, NEVER DREAMING THAT THE HAND OF FATE WILL CAST THEM TOGETHER AGAIN SOONER THAN THEY THINK...

THE PARTIN' OF THE WAYS, MR. LEDUC! IT'S BEEN A PLEASURE TALKIN' TO YOU--AND I WISH YOU THE BEST, AND ALL THAT BALLY TOSH!



YOU'RE GASTON LEDUC, EH? AND THIS IS YOUR PERMIT TO ENTER THE COUNTRY WITHOUT UNDERGOING INSPECTION... ALL RIGHT--YOU MAY PASS!

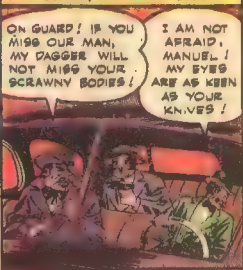


TRY AS I WOULD I COULDN'T MAKE HIM TALK ABOUT HIMSELF! I'VE HALF A MIND TO FOLLOW HIM NOW!

WELL, IT'S A FREE COUNTRY, AND YOU'RE IN IT! ... NEXT!



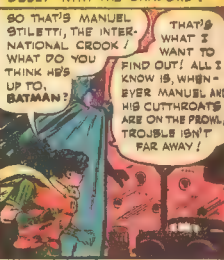
AT THE PIER EXIT, THREE SWARTHY INDIVIDUALS WATCH THE NEW ARRIVALS WITH BEADY, GLITTERING EYES...



ON GUARD! IF YOU MISS OUR MAN, MY DAGGER WILL NOT MISS YOUR SCRAWNY BODIES!

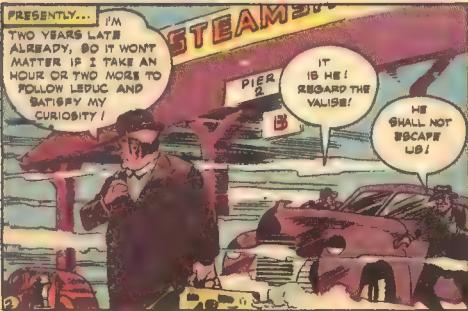
I AM NOT AFRAID, MANUEL! MY EYES ARE AS KEEN AS YOUR KNIVES!

AND IN TURN, THE WATCHERS ARE WATCHED BY TWO DARK FIGURES THAT BLEND OMINOUSLY WITH THE SHADOWS!



SO THAT'S MANUEL STILETTI, THE INTERNATIONAL CROOK! WHAT DO YOU THINK HE'S UP TO, BATMAN?

THAT'S WHAT I WANT TO FIND OUT! ALL I KNOW IS, WHEN-EVER MANUEL AND HIS CUTTHROATS ARE ON THE PROWL, TROUBLE ISN'T FAR AWAY!



PRESENTLY... I'M TWO YEARS LATE ALREADY, SO IT WON'T MATTER IF I TAKE AN HOUR OR TWO MORE TO FOLLOW LEDUC AND SATISFY MY CURIOSITY!

IT IS HE! REGARD THE VALISE!

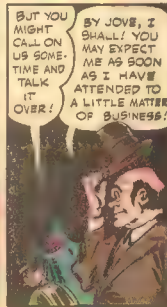
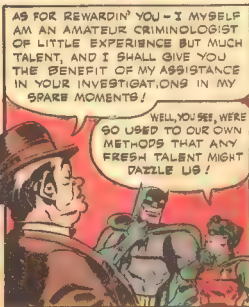
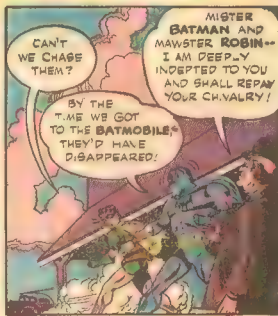
HE SHALL NOT ESCAPE US!



GIVE ME THE VALISE QUIETLY, AMIGO, AND PERHAPS I SHALL LET YOU LIVE!

OTHERWISE, YOU ARE DEAD LIKE A DOG!

EH--WHAT?... OH--A BALLY STICKUP, SUCH AS I'VE SEEN IN THE CINEMA!...



LATER, AS THE ADVENTURERS PREPARE TO GO TO BED...

THAT WAS A GOOD ONE, **BRUCE**-- TELLING HIM TO CALL ON US, WHEN NOBODY KNOWS WHO THE **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** ARE, OR WHERE THEY LIVE!

OH WELL--MAYBE HE FANCIES HE'S SMART ENOUGH TO FIND US!



IMAGINE A DIMWIT LIKE HIM FINDING US WHEN SOME OF THE SMARTEST MEN IN THE WORLD HAVE TRIED AND FAILED!... OH, OH-- SOMEONE'S AT THE DOOR!

I'LL ANSWER IT!



WHO CAN IT BE AT THIS HOUR?

PROBABLY SOME OF YOUR NIGHT- OWL SOCIETY FRIENDS!



THE NEXT INSTANT...

GOOD EVENIN', GENTLEMEN! I TRUST I HAVEN'T DISTURBED YOUR REST!



WOW?

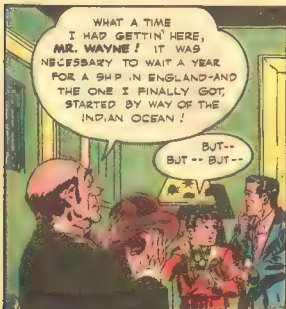


I'LL JUST SET MY LUGGAGE DOWN, IF YOU'LL PERMIT ME-- AND THEN WE'LL DISCUSS MY DUTIES!



WHAT A TIME I HAD GETTIN' HERE, **MR. WAYNE**! IT WAS NECESSARY TO WAIT A YEAR FOR A SHIP IN ENGLAND--AND THE ONE I FINALLY GOT, STARTED BY WAY OF THE INDIAN OCEAN!

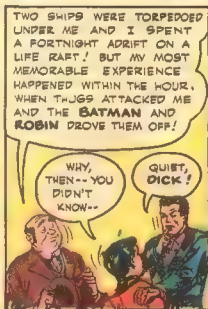
BUT-- BUT-- BUT--



TWO SHIPS WERE TORPEDOED UNDER ME AND I SPENT A FORTNIGHT ADRIPT ON A LIFE RAFT! BUT MY MOST MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE HAPPENED WITHIN THE HOUR, WHEN THUGS ATTACKED ME AND THE **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** DROVE THEM OFF!

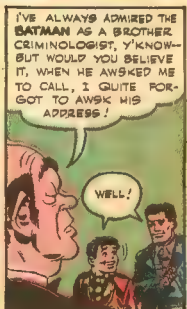
WHY, THEN-- YOU DIDN'T KNOW--

QUIET, DICK!



I'VE ALWAYS ADMIRRED THE **BATMAN** AS A BROTHER, CRIMINOLOGIST, Y'KNOW-- BUT WOULD YOU BELIEVE IT, WHEN HE AWSKED ME TO CALL, I QUITE FORGOT TO AWSK HIS ADDRESS!

WELL!



QUITE A TIME YOU'VE HAD! BUT NOW THAT YOU'RE HERE, WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU, MR--ER--ER?

YOU MAY CALL ME "ALFRED" WITHOUT THE "MISTER"--AND IT'S I WHO WILL DO FOR YOU! YOU SEE, I'M YOUR NEW BUTLER!

BUTLER! BUT I HAVEN'T HAD ONE IN YEARS! I DIDN'T SEND FOR ONE, AND I'M AFRAID I DON'T WANT ONE!

WE'VE FOUND WE CAN GET ALONG BETTER WITHOUT SERVANTS OF ANY KIND!

IT MAY BE A BIT AWKWARD AT FIRST, SIR-- BUT I DARE SAY YOU'LL GET USED TO ME!

YOU MAY REMEMBER MY FATHER, JARVIS, WHO WAS YOUR FATHER'S BUTLER FOR MANY YEARS! THE POOR OLD GENTLEMAN WAS HEARTBROKEN WHEN I FORSOOK THE FAMILY CALLING TO BE AN ACTOR IN THE MUSIC HALLS!

SO YOU'RE THE SON OF GOOD JARVIS! HOW IS HE?

GONE, SIR... AND ON HIS DEATHBED, HE MADE ME PROMISE TO MEND MY WAYS AND COME TO YOUR HOUSE IN AMERICA! SO YOU SEE, EVEN IF YOU DON'T WANT ME, THERE ISN'T ANY HELP FOR IT!

UH--
WELL--

BUT I MUSTN'T KEEP YOU STANDING HERE IN YOUR BAWTHROBES... I'LL TURN DOWN THE BEDS AND MAKE THINGS READY FOR THE NIGHT!

AND I THOUGHT I'D BEEN PRETTY NEAR EVERYTHING!

BUT WE CAN'T HAVE HIM DOING HIS AMATEUR SLEUTHING HERE! IF HE SHOULD FIND OUR SECRET LABORATORY AND THE TUNNEL TO THE BAT-PLANE HANGAR, HE'D REALLY KNOW THE IDENTITY OF THE BATMAN AND ROBIN!

YOU'RE RIGHT... BUT I HAVEN'T THE HEART TO SEND HIM PACKING TONIGHT! I'LL THINK OF SOMETHING IN THE MORNING!

BUT BEFORE DAWN A FURTIVE TRIO APPROACHES THE WAYNE HOME...

THIS IS UNTHINKABLE... THAT WE SHOULD FAIL! IF WE DO NOT GET THE VALISE TONIGHT, MILLIONS OF DOLLARS WILL SLIP THROUGH OUR FINGERS!

RATHER WOULD I ROT IN PRISON THAN HAVE THAT HAPPEN!

AND A SILENT BEAM OF LIGHT AWAKENS BRUCE!

WHA--? MY SPECIAL BURGLAR ALARM! SOMEONE HAS FORCED OPEN ONE OF THE EAST WINDOWS!

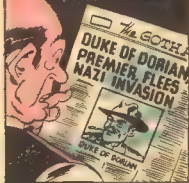
OH, YOU'RE AWAKE ... MY BURGLAR ALARM IS ON, AND I WONDERED IF YOU KNEW-- BUT I SEE YOU DO!

GET INTO YOUR UNIFORM, IN CASE WE HAVE TO GO OUT-- AND DON'T FORGET, WE'LL HAVE TO MAKE UP SOME EXPLANATION FOR THE **BATMAN AND ROBIN** APPEARING HERE IF WE DON'T WANT TO GIVE OURSELVES AWAY!

AND NOW LET US JOIN THE REMARKABLE **ALFRED** AS HIS ENTHUSIASM FOR HIS NEW JOB CARRIES HIM FAR INTO THE NIGHT...

MR WAYNE IS A NICE PERSON BUT A TYPICAL BACHELOR! LOOK AT THESE NEWSPAPERS, WEEKS OLD AND NOT YET TAKEN OUT!... HAMM-- THIS PICTURE...

IT IS HE, **GASTON LE DUC**! NO WONDER I SENSED SOMETHING MYSTERIOUS ABOUT HIM! I MUST LOOK HIM UP AND LET HIM KNOW I PIERCED HIS INCOGNITO!



MOMENT LATER...

SO-- YOU THOUGHT TO ESCAPE! YOU DID NOT THINK WE WOULD FOLLOW YOU, EH?

BLAWST IT! IF I RESIST IT WILL DISTURB THE MAWSTERS-- AND A GOOD BUTLER NEVER LETS THAT HAPPEN!

THERE IS NO **BATMAN** TO SAVE YOU NOW, ENGLISH DOLT! LEAD US TO THE VALISE BEFORE MY TRIGGER BECOMES IMPATIENT!

IT'S IN THIS ROOM!... YOU CAN HAVE IT --B-BUT P-PLEASE DON'T KILL ME!

AH! AT LAST! THE TREASURE IS OURS!

BLESS ME-- I KNEW THAT VALISE WAS OLD, BUT I NEVER DREAMED IT WAS A VALUABLE ANTIQUE!

I SAY-- IT'S BAD ENOUGH TO STEAL, BUT IT'S DOWNRIGHT CRIMINAL TO DESTROY A THING WHILE THERE'S STILL USE IN IT!

PASLO, HE ANNOYS ME! KILL HIM!

WITH THE GREATEST OF PLEASURE!

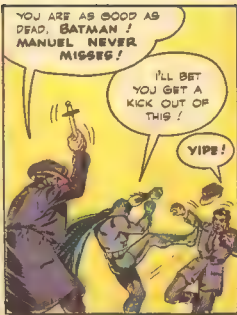


SUDDENLY...

YOU ROTTEN MURDERERS! DON'T THINK I COULD FOLLOW YOU, DID YOU?

I SAY, OLD CHAP, YOU'RE CERTAINLY WELCOME!

YOU AGAIN!



YOU ARE AS GOOD AS DEAD, BATMAN! MANUEL NEVER MISSES!

I'LL BET YOU GET A KICK OUT OF THIS!

YIPE!



WELL, HARDLY EVER!

WHAT -- ?... I SHALL HAVE REVENGE FOR THIS, BRAT!

HAW! DEUCED CLEVER!



JUST TO MAKE SURE YOU HAVE YOUR FULL QUOTA OF BAD LUCK!

I AM ASSASSINATED!



THOSE OF THE CRIMINALS WHO ARE STILL ABLE, EXIT WITH INELEGANT WASTE...

WAIT, THOMAS! YOUR LEADER SHOULD GO FIRST!

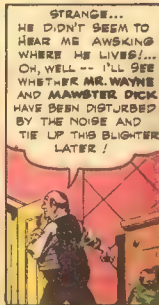
THEY'RE GETTING AWAY! COME ON, ROBIN!



THEY'RE GETTING INTO A CAR! I'LL GET THE BATMOBILE!

BETTER TIE THIS FELLOW BEFORE HE COMES TO!

YES, SIR! AND ABOUT YOUR ADDRESS--



STRANGE...

HE DIDN'T SEEM TO HEAR ME ASKING WHERE HE LIVES!... OH, WELL -- I'LL SEE WHETHER MR. WAYNE AND MAWSTER DICK HAVE BEEN DISTURBED BY THE NOISE AND TIE UP THIS BLIGHTER LATER!

PRESENTLY...

MAWSTER DICK
IS NOT IN HIS
ROOM... AND MR.
BRUCE HAS VANISHED
ALSO! HERE IS A
MYSTERY WORTHY
OF MY GREATEST
TALENTS!

I SHALL
CONSULT MY
DETECTIVE BOOK
AND -- EH, WHAT!
'PON MY SOUL, THE
BLIGHTER HAS
REVVED AND IS
COMIN' AWFTER
ME!

SO---THE
PLEASURE OF
KILLING YOU HAS
BEEN DELAYED,
BUT NOT
LOST!

A
GOOD
TOUNCING
WILL IMPROVE
YOUR MANNERS
MY MAN!
OUCH!

I
HAVE A
SHARP
ANSWER
FOR THAT
CLUMSY
BLOW!

AAA-AA!

WELL, WELL --
IT APPEARS A
MISS S AS
GOOD AS A
KNOCKOUT!
HA, HA -- A
JEST! I MUST
REPEAT IT
FOR THE
AMUSEMENT
OF MR.
WAYNE!

BUT IN FALLING, THE
HEAVY SHIELD HAS
STRUCK A CONCEALED
TRIGGER, AND RELEASED A
SECRET SPRING--AND...

BY JOVE! A SLIDING
PANEL AND A SECRET
STAIRWAY! IT REMINDS
ME OF SOME OF THE
OLD CASTLES IN
ENGLAND!

CURIOSITY LEADS THE EXTRA-
ORDINARY BUTLER TO IN-
VESTIGATE...

A
CRIMINOLOGICAL
LABORATORY--
AND A TUNNEL
LEADING SOME-
WHERE BEYOND.

IN AN
UNDERGROUND
HANGAR...
A LIGHT IS
SWITCHED
ON...

A PLANE WITH
BAT-SHAPED WINGS!
IT MUST BE THE
FAMOUS BATPLANE
I'VE HEARD SO
MUCH ABOUT! I
DO BELIEVE I'M
GOING TO
MAKE AN
AMAZING
DEDUCTION...

THERE CAN'T
BE ANY DOUBT
ABOUT IT -- MR.
BRUCE WAYNE IS
THE BATMAN, AND
THE YOUNG MAWSTER
IS ROBIN! HOW
CLEVER OF ME TO HAVE
DISCOVERED IT--AND
HOW FORTUNATE THEY
ARE TO HAVE A MAN
OF MY ABILITIES IN
THE EMPLOY!

MEANWHILE, NEVER DREAMING THAT THE ALL-IMPORTANT SECRET OF THEIR DOUBLE IDENTITY HAS BEEN PIERCED BY A STROKE OF LUCK, THE **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** JOIN IN HOT PURSUIT OF THE **FLEEING MANUEL...**

THERE THEY ARE--
TURNING THAT
CORNER
AHEAD!

STEP ON IT!
IF WE DON'T
CATCH THEM NOW
WE MAY NEVER
HAVE ANOTHER
CHANCE!



MOMENTS
LATER...

THERE'S
THEIR CAR--
BUT
WHERE ARE
THEY?

I CAN'T THINK
OF ANY BETTER
HIDEOUT THAN
AN ABANDONED
THEATER!



STEEL MUSCLES FORCE A
LOCKED DOOR, AND THE
DYNAMIC DUO VENTURES
INTO COBWEB-DRAPED
DARKNESS...

SPOOKY PLACE, ISN'T IT?
I BET NOBODY'S BEEN
HERE FOR YEARS!

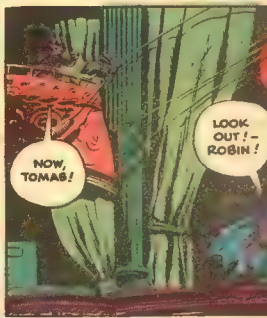
YOU'D LOSE YOUR
MONEY! EVEN **ALFRED**
WOULD KNOW BETTER
SEEING THESE FOOT-
PRINTS IN THE DUST!



BRRR-R-R! I CAN
HEAR THE GHOSTS
OF DEAD PLAYS
MOANING!



THERE'S A
STRANGE WHIRRING
SOUND COMING
FROM
SOMEWHERE!



NOW,
TOMAS!

LOOK
OUT!--
ROBIN!

A STRANGE SOUND IN-
DEED--AND AN OMINOUS
ONE--FOR IT IS MADE BY
WHIRRING ENDS OR
WEIGHTED ROPES
SWUNG BY AN EXPERT
HAND IN THE SHADOWS
OF A BOX...

TOO LATE! THE NEXT INSTANT,
HISSING COILS WHIP AROUND
THE LIMBS AND BODIES OF THE
STARTLED CRIME-CRUSHERS...

WHA--?
A
BOLA!

I CAN'T
MOVE MY
ARMS OR FEET!
I'M
FALLING!



AS FINE A CAST
AS WAS EVER
MADE! NOW
TO FINISH
THEM!

NOT YET! LET US
DO ALL OUR KILLING
AT ONCE, AND DIS-
POSE OF THE BODIES
TOGETHER! THESE
STUPID ONES WILL BE SAFE
IF WE TIE THEM TIGHTER
AND HOIST THEM INTO
THE AIR!



SOUND AND GAGGED, THE HAPLESS PRISONERS ARE HOISTED ALOFT...

AT LAST YOU HAVE BEEN OUTWITTED, BATMAN! YOU CANNOT SHOUT FOR HELP--AND IF YOU BREAK YOUR BONDS, YOU WILL BE DASHED TO PIECES BY THE FALL!

SOON WE SHALL BURN THE THEATER ABOUT YOUR EARS-- BUT FIRST, WE SHALL BRING A THIRD VICTIM TO SHARE YOUR FIERY FATE!

WE HAVE LEARNED THE THIRD MAN'S IDENTITY AND PRESENT ADDRESS FROM THE LABELS ON THE VALISE WHICH GAVE US SO MUCH TROUBLE! THEY FORMED A CODE MESSAGE SENT BY OUR CLEVER COLLEAGUES ABROAD!

DEATH FOR YOU AND A VAST FORTUNE FOR US! IS IT NOT DROLL?

LEFT ALONE, THE FLIGHT OF THE BATMAN AND ROBIN SEEMS HOPELESS...

WE'VE BEEN IN TIGHT SPOTS BEFORE, BUT I CAN'T SEEM TO RECALL ANY TIGHTER THAN THIS!

IF ONLY THEY HADN'T GAGGED US! IT MIGHT HELP TO TALK THINGS OVER!

OUTSIDE THE ANCIENT THEATER, THE TWO CRIMINALS ARE JOINED BY THEIR COMPANION...

WE THOUGHT THE POLICE WOULD HAVE YOU BY NOW, AND WE WERE HEART-BROKEN BECAUSE YOU WOULD MISS YOUR SHARE OF THE SWAG!

YOU MEAN, YOU'RE HEARTBROKEN BECAUSE I'M HERE TO CLAIM IT!... IT WAS A SIMPLE MATTER TO ESCAPE FROM THAT PIGHEADED BUTLER!

WHILE BEHIND A CONVENIENT BARRIER...

PIGHEADED INDEED! I LET THE SLIGHTER ESCAPE SO I COULD FOLLOW HIM! THE BATMAN AND ROBIN MUST BE INSIDE AND I MAY AS WELL LET THEM SEE THAT I'M ON THE JOB!

OR PERHAPS THE BATMAN HAS BEEN HERE AND GONE... NO SIGN OF HIM... HMMM--QUITE A WHILE SINCE I'VE STOOD BEHIND THE FOOTLIGHTS!

"ONCE A MUSIC HALL ACTOR, ALWAYS A HAM," IS A SAYING THAT HOLDS GOOD HERE AS ELSEWHERE...

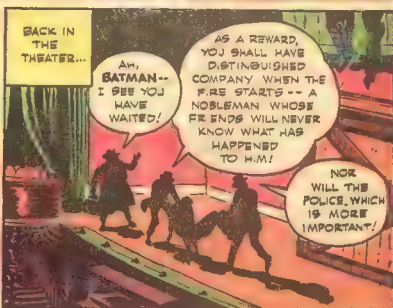
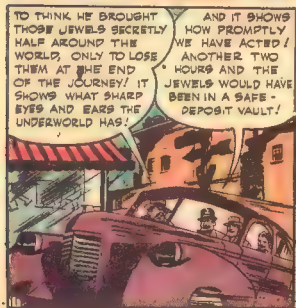
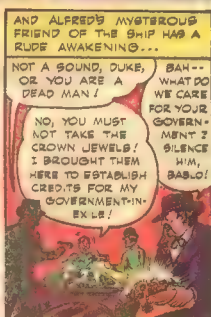
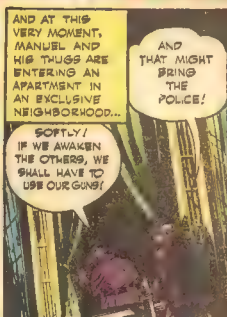
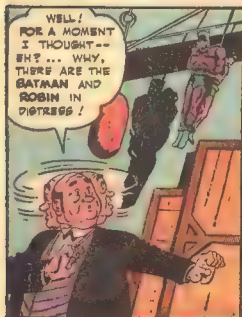
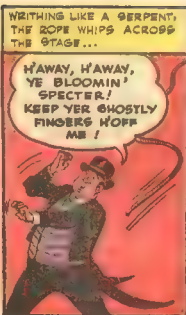
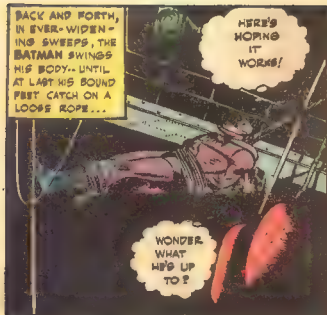
PUTS ME IN MIND OF THE TIME I PLAYED THE ROLE OF A COCKNEY BUTLER IN A HAUNTED HOUSE... HOW DID IT GO... 'ARK--WOT'S THAT NOISE? CAN IT BE 'ANOTHER SPIRIT COME TO 'AUNT ME?

HIGH OVER-HEAD, AN UNAPPRECIATIVE AUDIENCE HEARS LINES OF LOWBROW MELODRAMA...

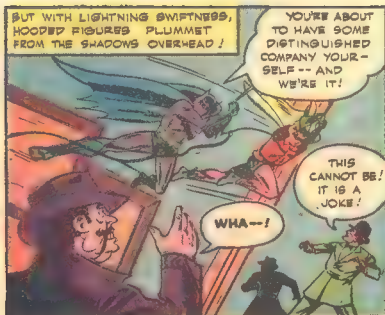
IF ONLY WE'D FORGET THE CORN AND LOOK THIS WAY!

THERE MUST BE SOME WAY TO ATTRACT HIS ATTENTION... MAYBE IF I START SWINGING...

H'I'M FAIR FED UP WITH GHOSTS, SO H'I HAM! H'I SHALL TURN IN MY NOTICE!



BUT WITH LIGHTNING SWIFTNESS,
HOODED FIGURES PLUMMET
FROM THE SHADOWS OVERHEAD!



YOU'RE ABOUT
TO HAVE SOME
DISTINGUISHED
COMPANY YOUR-
SELF -- AND
WE'RE IT!

THIS
CANNOT BE!
IT IS A
JOKE!

WHA--!

A JOKE ON
YOU!

QUICKLY,
TOMAS -- KILL
THEM OR ALL
IS LOST!

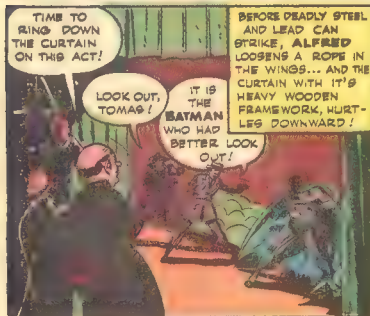


TIME TO
RING DOWN
THE CURTAIN
ON THIS ACT!

LOOK OUT,
TOMAS!

IT IS
THE
BATMAN
WHO HAD
BETTER LOOK
OUT!

BEFORE DEADLY STEEL
AND LEAD CAN
STRIKE, ALFRED
LOOSENS A ROPE IN
THE WINGS... AND THE
CURTAIN WITH IT'S
HEAVY WOODEN
FRAMEWORK, HURT-
LES DOWNWARD!



THAT'S RIGHT--
TAKES A BOW!
AH! GOOD WORK,
OL' BEAN!

OOO-O-O...



A FITTING
FINALE FOR A
BAD ACTOR!
EH, WOT?

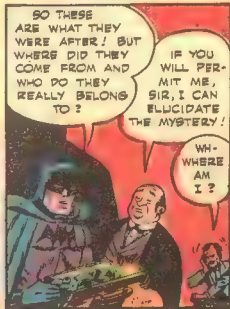
HERE'S
AN
ALL-STAR
ACT
TO FINISH
THE
BILL!



SO THESE
ARE WHAT THEY
WERE AFTER! BUT
WHERE DID THEY
COME FROM AND
WHO DO THEY
REALLY BELONG
TO?

IF YOU
WILL PER-
MIT ME,
SIR, I CAN
ELUCIDATE
THE MYSTERY!

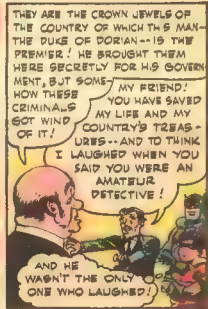
WH-
WHERE
AM
I?



THEY ARE THE CROWN JEWELS OF
THE COUNTRY OF WHICH TH'S MAN--
THE DUKE OF DORIAN--IS THE
PREMIER! HE BROUGHT THEM
HERE SECRETLY FOR HIS GOVERN-
MENT, BUT SOME--

MY FRIEND!
YOU HAVE SAVED
MY LIFE AND MY
COUNTRY'S TREAS-
URES--AND TO THINK
I LAUGHED WHEN YOU
SAID YOU WERE AN
AMATEUR
DETECTIVE!

AND HE
WASN'T THE ONLY
ONE WHO LAUGHED!



THE FOLLOWING EVENING...

ALFRED'S PRETTY PROUD SINCE WE GAVE HIM FULL CREDIT FOR THIS CASE! I REALLY THOUGHT HE'D DONE A GREAT JOB OF DETECTING, TILL IT TURNED OUT HE GOT ALL HIS INFORMATION BY ACCIDENT!

FOR AWHILE, I WAS AFRAID HE'D FIND OUT WHO WE REALLY ARE-- BUT IF WE'RE CAREFUL, IT WILL BE SAFE TO LET HIM STAY, SINCE HE ISN'T TOO BRIGHT!

BES PARDON, SIR... YOU'LL BE GOING OUT DIRECTLY, AND I THOUGHT I MIGHT ASSIST YOU WITH YOUR UNIFORMS!

WHAT'S THIS?

HUH?... THOSE CLOAKS... WHY, WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?



THE SEARCHLIGHT WENT ON A FEW SECONDS AGO! I BELIEVE IT MEANS THE POLICE REQUIRE THE BATMAN'S SERVICES!

THE SIGNAL!... BUT-- BUT WHAT'S THAT GOT TO DO WITH US?



YOU FORGET MY DEDUCTIVE ABILITIES! I HAVE KNOWN SINCE LAST NIGHT THAT YOU WERE THE BATMAN AND ROBIN-- BUT I SAW NO REASON TO MENTION IT TILL NOW!

SOMETHING TELLS ME I WAS WRONG IN WHAT I SAID A MINUTE AGO, BRUCE!

COULD BE!



WELL, YOU'RE ONE OF US NOW, ALFRED! I HOPE YOU REALIZE THAT IF YOUR KNOWLEDGE LEAKED OUT, ROBIN'S LIFE AND MINE WOULD BE FORFEIT. CRIMINALS WOULD HAVE AN EASIER TIME OF IT!

I UNDERSTAND PERFECTLY, AND YOU MAY RELY UTTERLY ON MY DISCRETION! YOUR CLOAK, SIR...

I DON'T THINK WE NEED TO WORRY!



MOMENTS LATER, THE BATPLANE RACES THROUGH THE NIGHT SKY...

AND AS THE DARING HEROES KEEP ANOTHER RENDEZVOUS WITH HIGH ADVENTURE, ALFRED MAKES A COMPROMISE WITH HIS CONSCIENCE!

THEY ARE SO IMPRESSED WITH ME, IT WOULD NEVER DO TO TELL THEM I LEARNED THEIR IDENTITY BY SHEER LUCK! MUCH BETTER TO ACT MYSTERIOUS AND SAY NOTHING!

ALFRED CAN BE USEFUL, AT THAT! HE SAVED OUR LIVES IN THE THEATER! HE MUST BE SMARTER THAN WE THINK TO HAVE SEEN THROUGH OUR DISGUISE!

KEEP AN EYE ON ALFRED! YOU HAVEN'T SEEN THE LAST OF HIM!





C'mon - PICK YOUR PRIZE

BOYS · GIRLS
MEN · WOMEN

THESE PRIZES ARE GIVEN TO YOU—Just send for 40 packets of easy selling Garden Spot Seeds which you can easily and quickly sell to your friends and neighbors at 10c each. Return the \$4.00 collected and select your Prize in accordance to our offers. SEND NO MONEY—WE TRUST YOU.

One Pair Racing HOMER PIGEONS



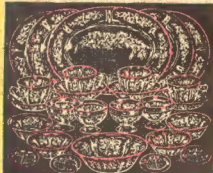
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Priscilla Curtain Set



All given as one Premium for selling only 1 order of seeds. Sent postpaid.

Beautiful DINNER SET



This beautiful Set Given for selling only 3 orders of Seeds. Sent Express Collect.

VIOLIN, BOW & INSTRUCTIONS

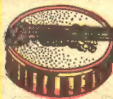


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The raising of rabbits for the market is a fascinating business. We offer and guarantee safe arrival one Pair of Rabbits for selling only two orders. Rabbits sent Ex. Collect.



Everyone who plants a garden will help to solve the problem of the feeding of the nation.

SEND NO MONEY WE TRUST YOU.

THIS PIN IS YOURS

FREE

Just mail the Coupon today and this beautiful Pin, symbolic of American Freedom, will be sent right along with the seeds.

MAIL COUPON TODAY

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Suitable for Dad or Son

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Print your last name plainly below

Save 2 cents by filling in, pasting and mailing this Coupon on a 1c Post Card TODAY.



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